THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING SERIES

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GABRIEL PICOLO

TEEN TITANS
STARFIRE

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For the disabled community, especially all the EDS zebras like Starfire and me, and all the amputees like Cyborg.
I see you.

—Kami

For Michelle, a dear friend who helped me push through to finish this book, and for the Starfire fans I met online and offline who are just as excited as me for this book.

—Gabriel

TEEN TITANS: STARFIRE

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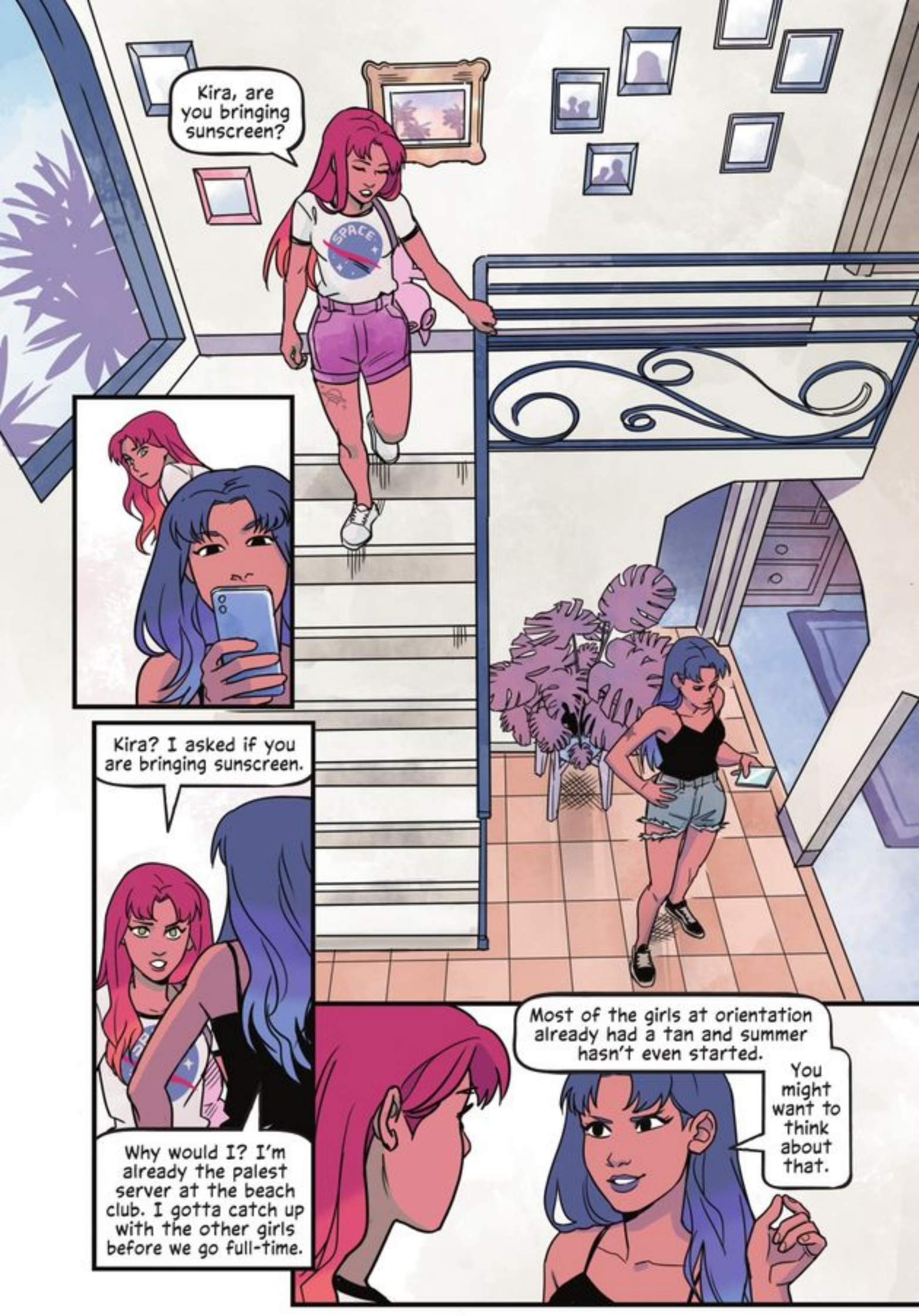
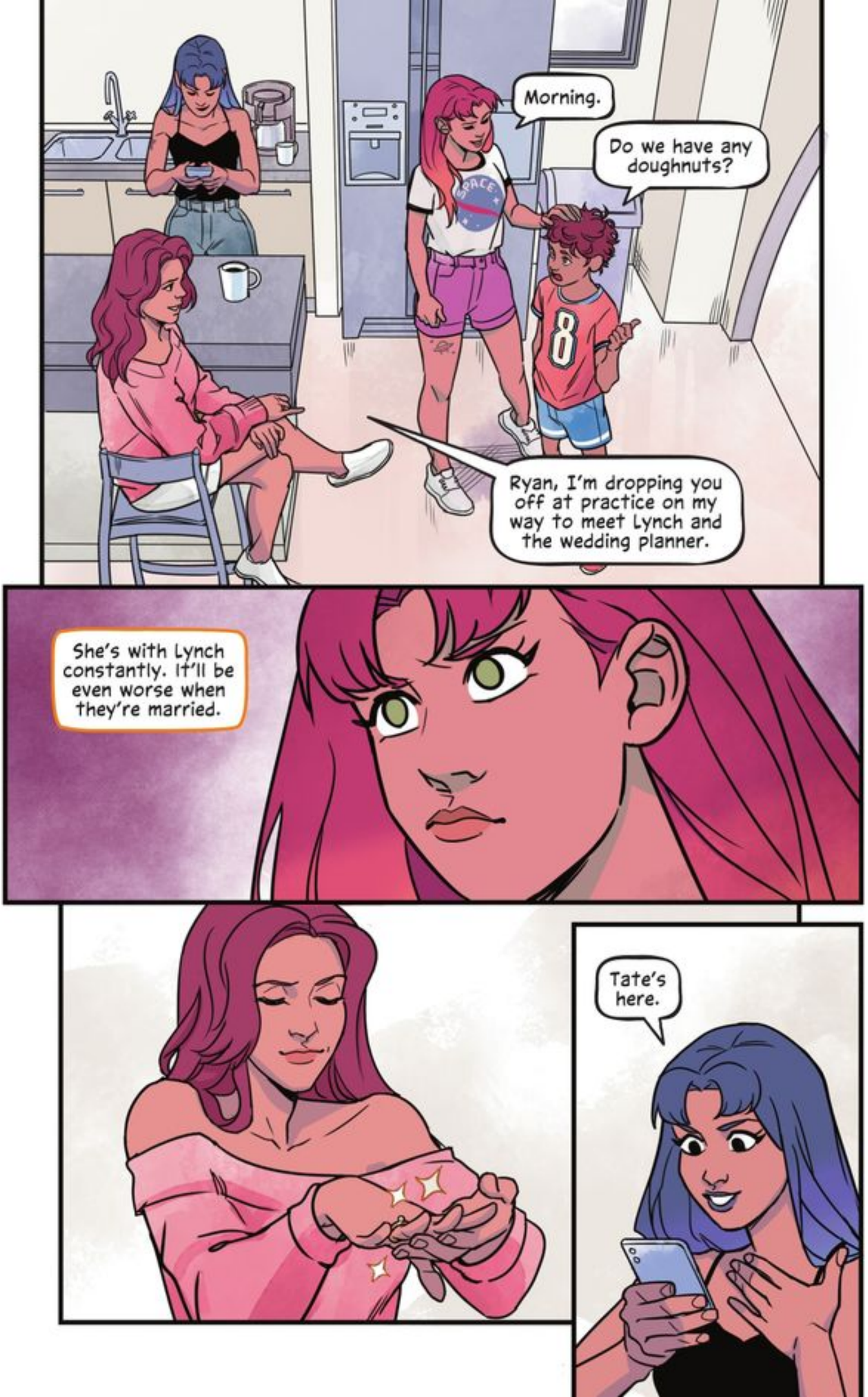
CHAPTER 1: CALIFORNIA DREAMING
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY
CELESTIAL PLANISPHERE
spookie
Water bottle, wallet...what am I forgetting?
SPACE
RAD

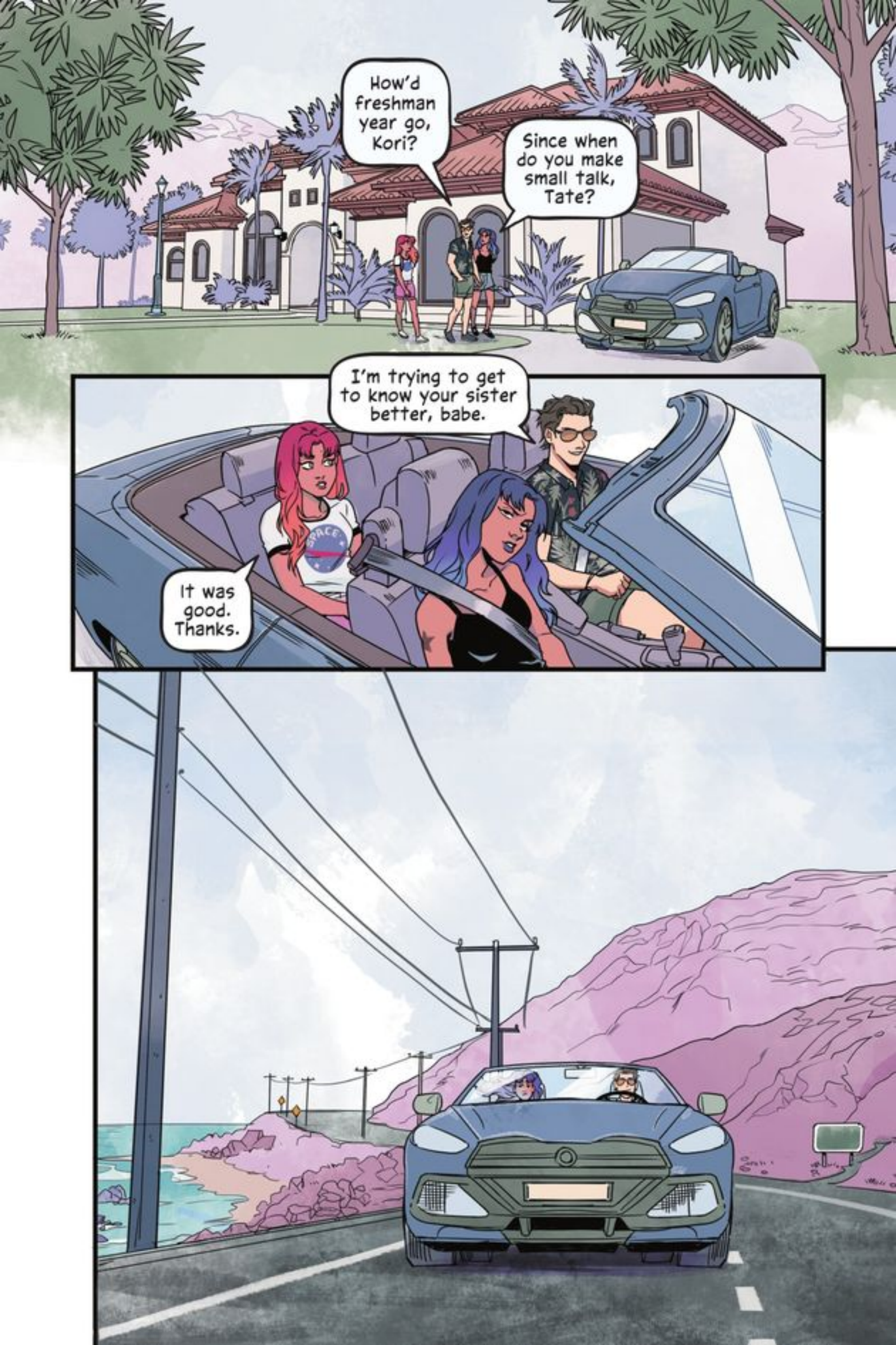
Meds and sunscreen. Only the two most important things.
Meds. Check.
Joint Relief
SUNSCREEN
PFFF!
I'll borrow Kira's.

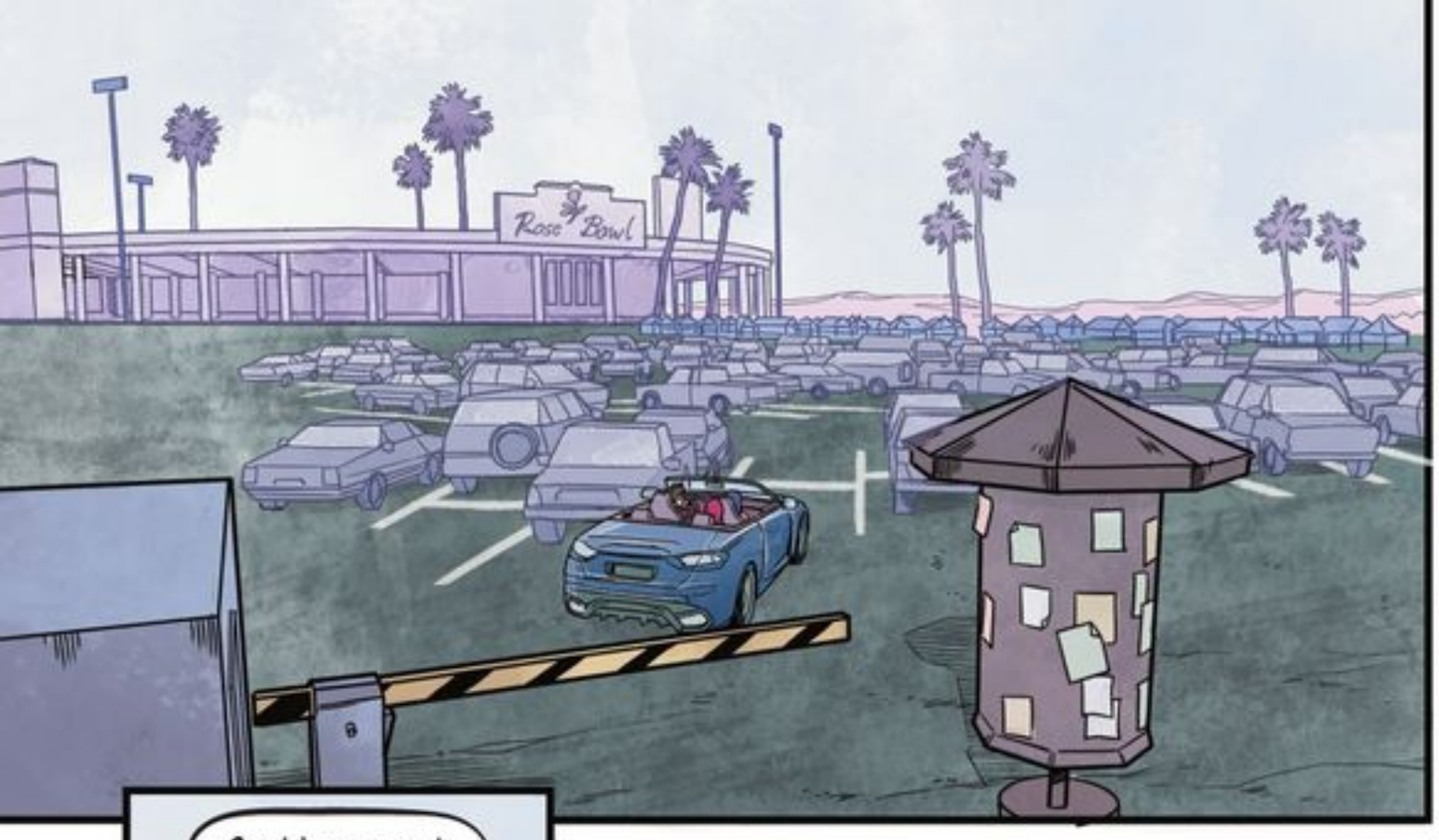

Kira, are you bringing sunscreen?
SPACE
Kira? I asked if you are bringing sunscreen.
Why would I? I'm already the palest server at the beach club. I gotta catch up with the other girls before we go full-time.
Most of the girls at orientation already had a tan and summer hasn't even started.
You might want to think about that.

Mom, will you tell Kira I don't need a tan?
You know my policy on getting involved in arguments between you two.
We're not arguing. I just don't want her to get a sunburn...or melanoma.
You worry too much.
You didn't want any, right?
It's okay.
SPACE


Morning.
Do we have any doughnuts?
Ryan, I'm dropping you off at practice on my way to meet Lynch and the wedding planner.
She's with Lynch constantly. It'll be even worse when they're married.
Tate's here.

How's it going, Mrs. Anders?
You have to start calling me Luanne. I'm marrying your uncle.
Maybe he's blocking it out because after the wedding, people will think he's dating his cousin.
No they won't.
Let's go. Stylists hit the Rose Bowl early. All the good vintage clothes will be gone.


How'd freshman year go, Kori?
Since when do you make small talk, Tate?
I'm trying to get to know your sister better, babe.
It was good. Thanks.


Rose Bowl

Could you park a little closer if there's a space?

Do you have an aversion to exercise?

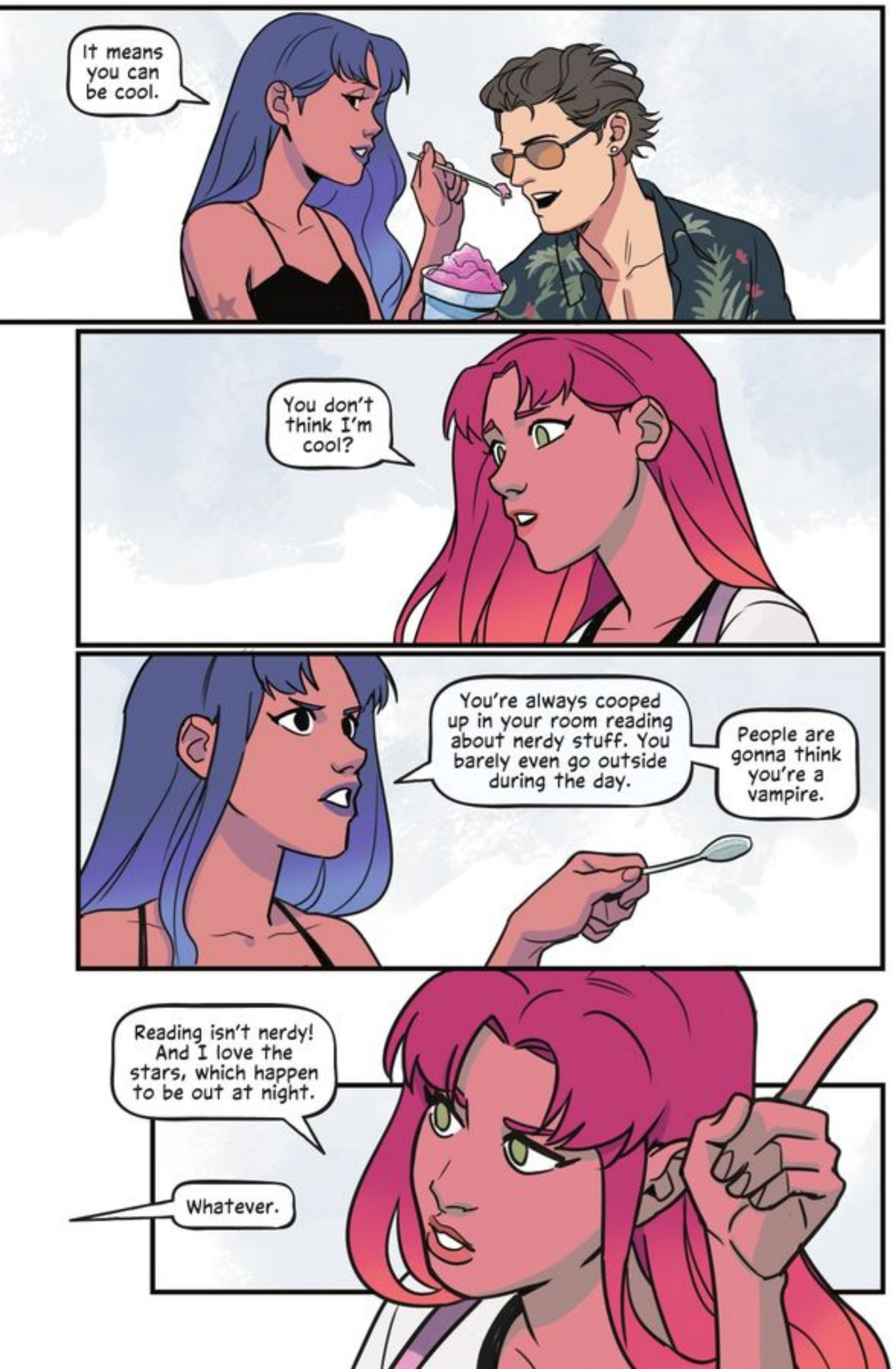
Kira didn't tell him about my EDS?
I guess they haven't been dating that long.

I have a connective-tissue disorder called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome type 1. My joints swell if I walk too much.
Sorry. I'll find a closer spot.
Kori's hypermobile and *super* flexible.
Rose Bowl
How'd you get...what's it called again?
EDS. It's genetic.
But I don't have it.
SPACE

ROSE BOWL FLEA MARKET
What are you looking for exactly?
ANTIQUES
SPACE
The kind of thing no one else at the parties will be wearing.
What parties?
Tate's friends from the beach club throw epic summer parties.

And I'm not about to look like I've been shopping at the mall.
What's wrong with the mall?
I shop at the mall.
I'm not dignifying that question with an answer.

We're going to meet a lot of new people this summer.
Rose Bowl
Okay...
Where's she going with this?
It's your chance to reinvent yourself.
What do you mean?


It means you can be cool.
You don't think I'm cool?
You're always cooped up in your room reading about nerdy stuff. You barely even go outside during the day.
People are gonna think you're a vampire.
Reading isn't nerdy! And I love the stars, which happen to be out at night.
Whatever.

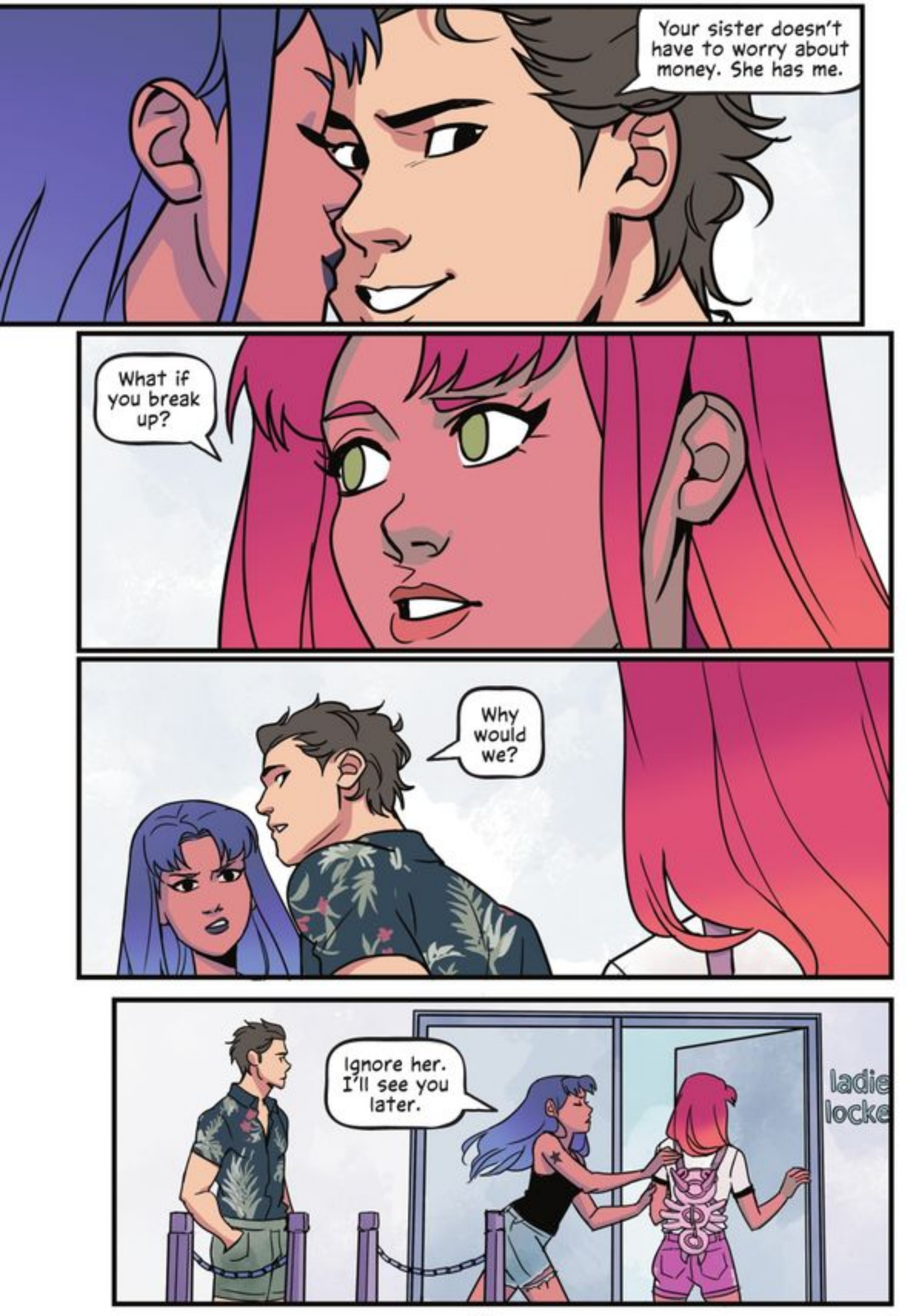
And there they are.
SPACE
You gonna buy something, or what?

I don't want any of this crap.
DANCE BAR
Zapp
Adeline?
I knew your second-rate mercenaries would screw up. But I have a contingency plan.

CHAPTER 2: SAND & SKY
NOW
sand & sky
sand & sky
I wish I hadn't missed work over the long weekend.
You're not the only one.
Good morning, Mr. Fairweather.
Park it at the end of a row. I don't want any dings on it.
Of course.

I'll see you later.
Or you could quit your job and hang out with me all day.
ladies staff locker room

She can't quit. She needs money for next semester.
SPACE

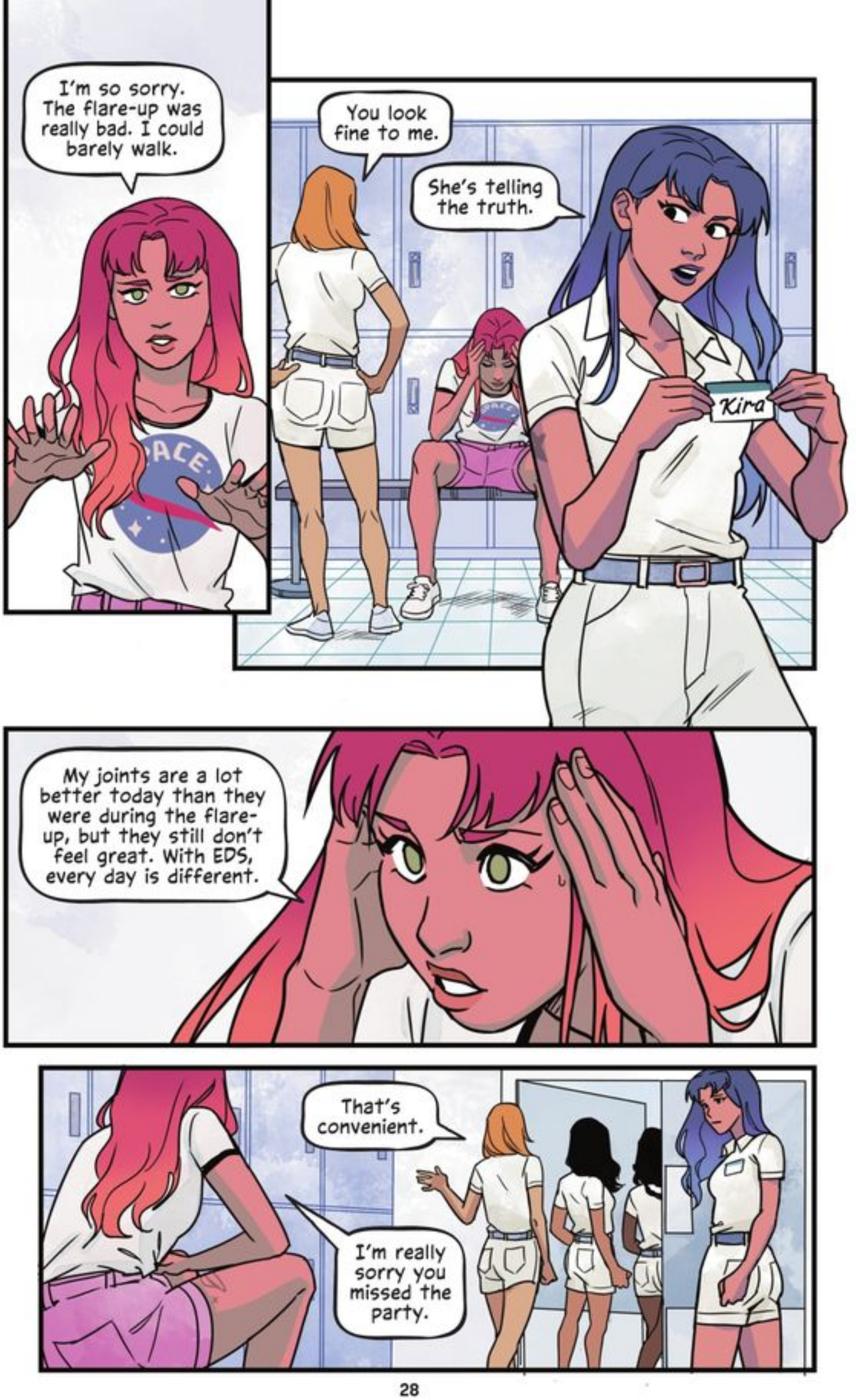

Your sister doesn't have to worry about money. She has me.
What if you break up?
Why would we?
Ignore her. I'll see you later.
ladie
locke

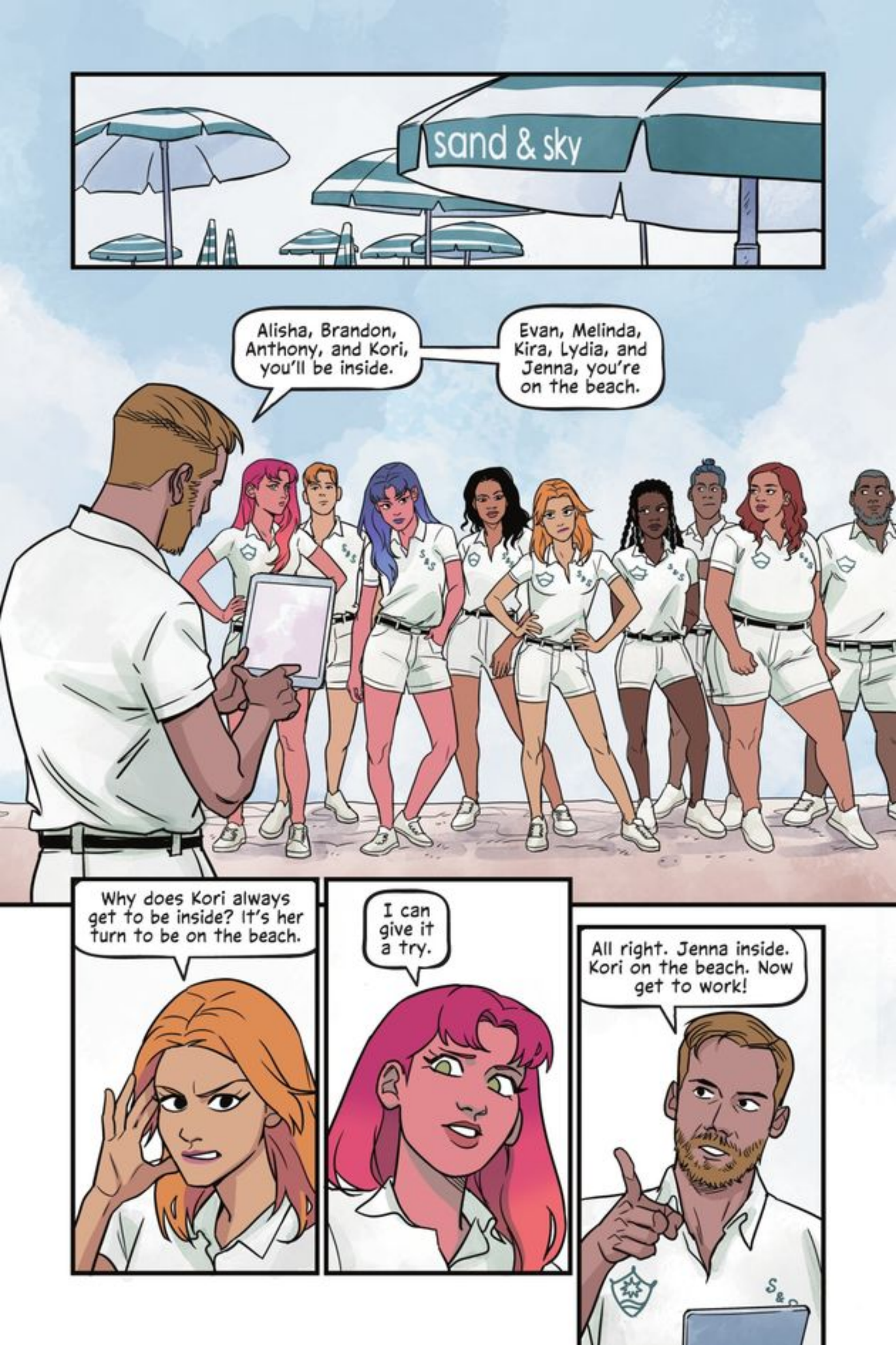
What's wrong with you?
Nothing. I was being practical. You can't quit your job.
I'm not. But you don't know anything about guys or relationships, so stay out of mine.
I just haven't met a guy I want to have a relationship with yet.
What's her deal? She's been touchy and temperamental ever since she came home for the summer.

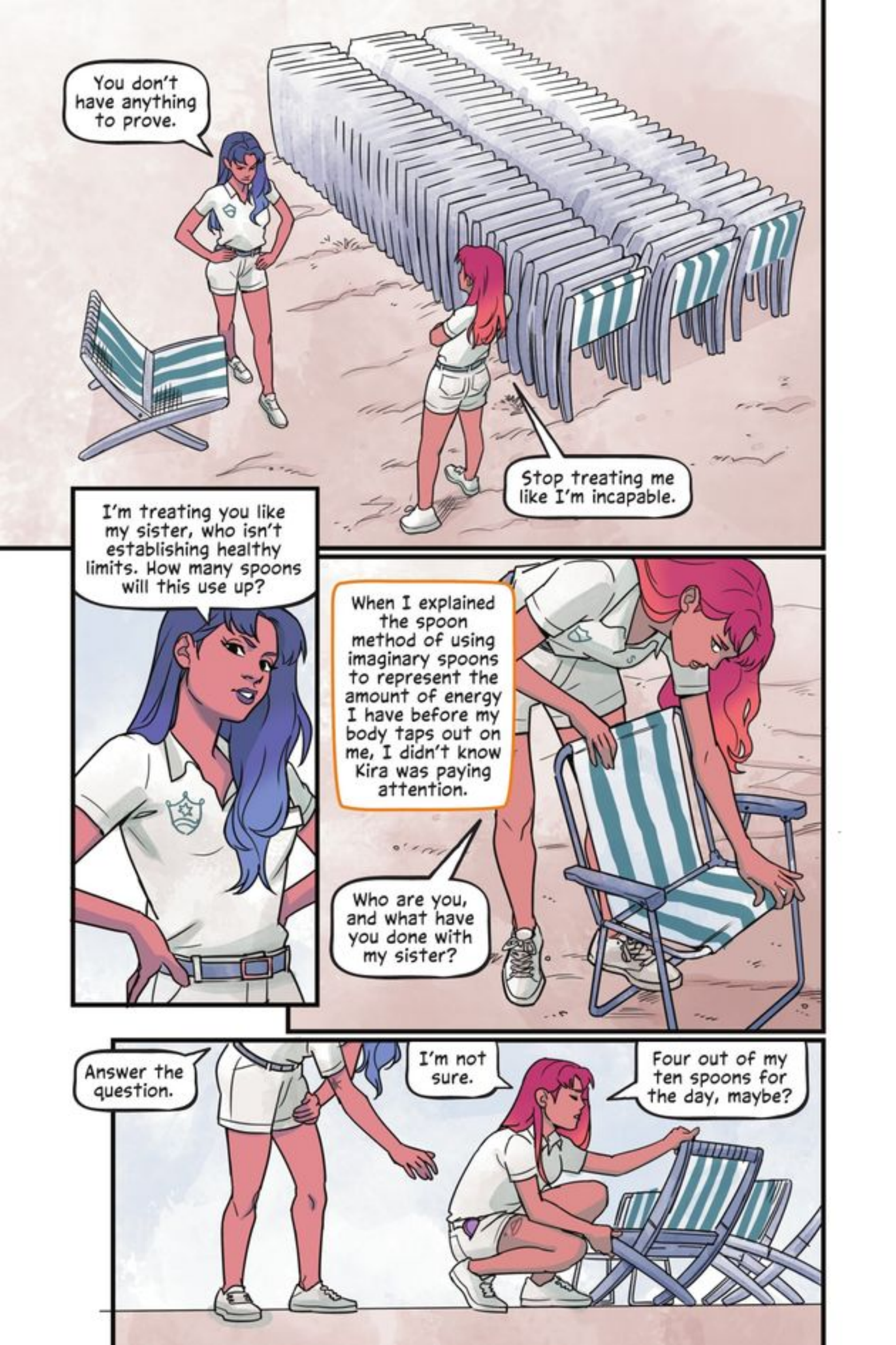
Look who finally decided to show up for work.

I couldn't come in. I had a bad flare-up.

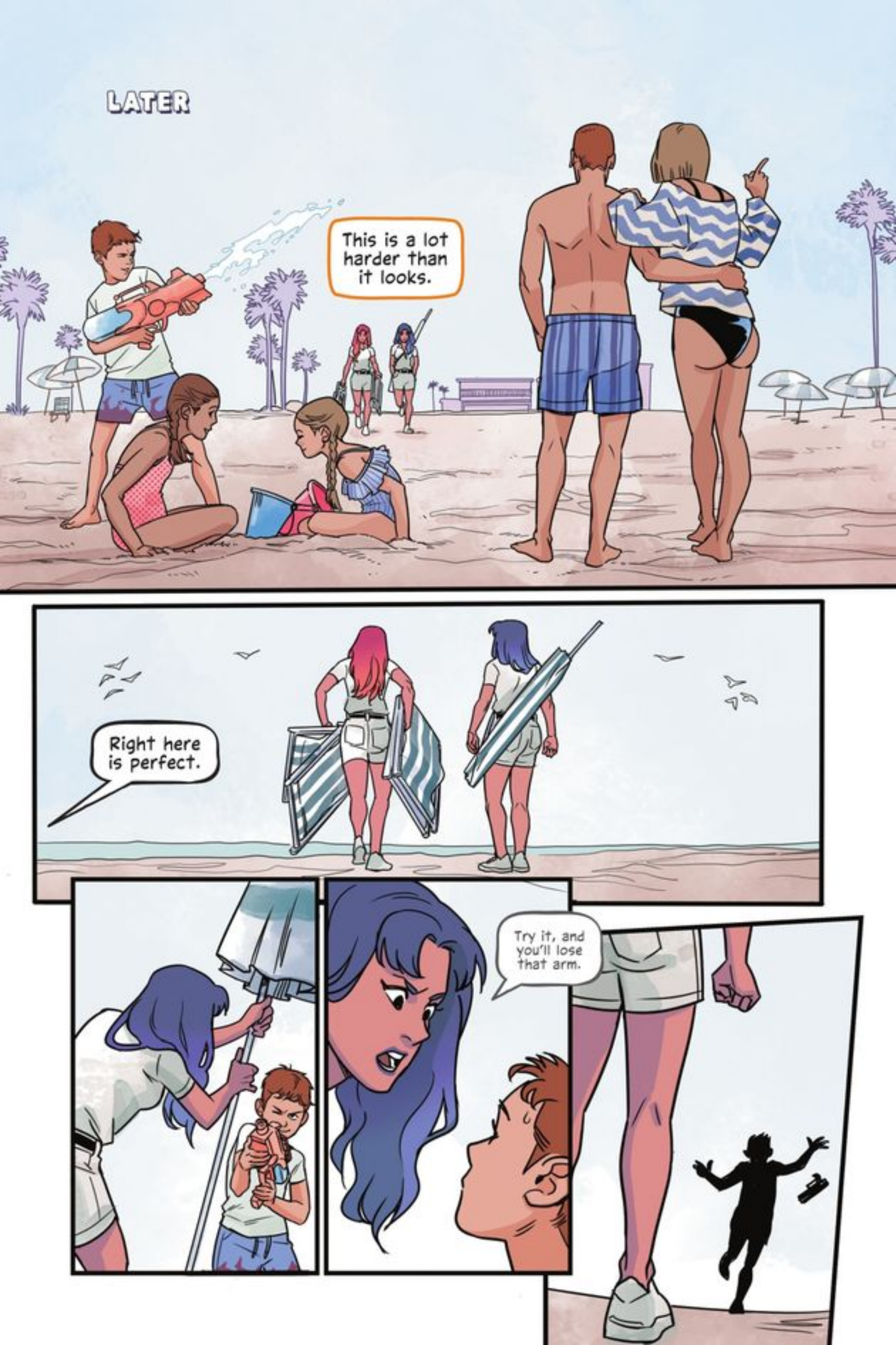
A what?
Melinda
I have a connective-tissue disorder, remember? I told everyone about it.
We missed Jackson Harding's Memorial Day party in Malibu.
Lydia
Because we had to cover *your* shifts.
Alisha

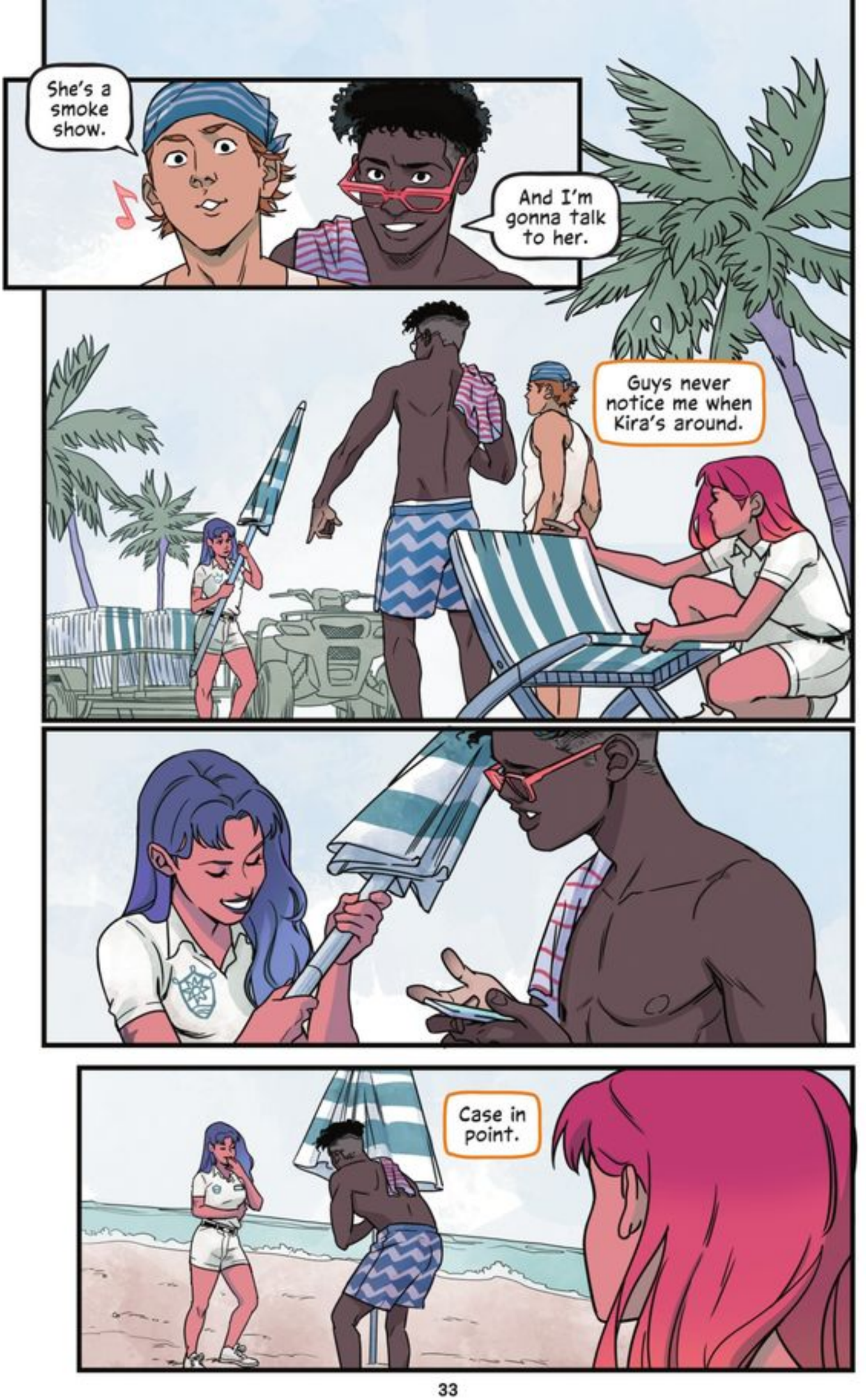

I'm so sorry. The flare-up was really bad. I could barely walk.
You look fine to me.
She's telling the truth.
Kira
My joints are a lot better today than they were during the flare-up, but they still don't feel great. With EDS, every day is different.
That's convenient.
I'm really sorry you missed the party.

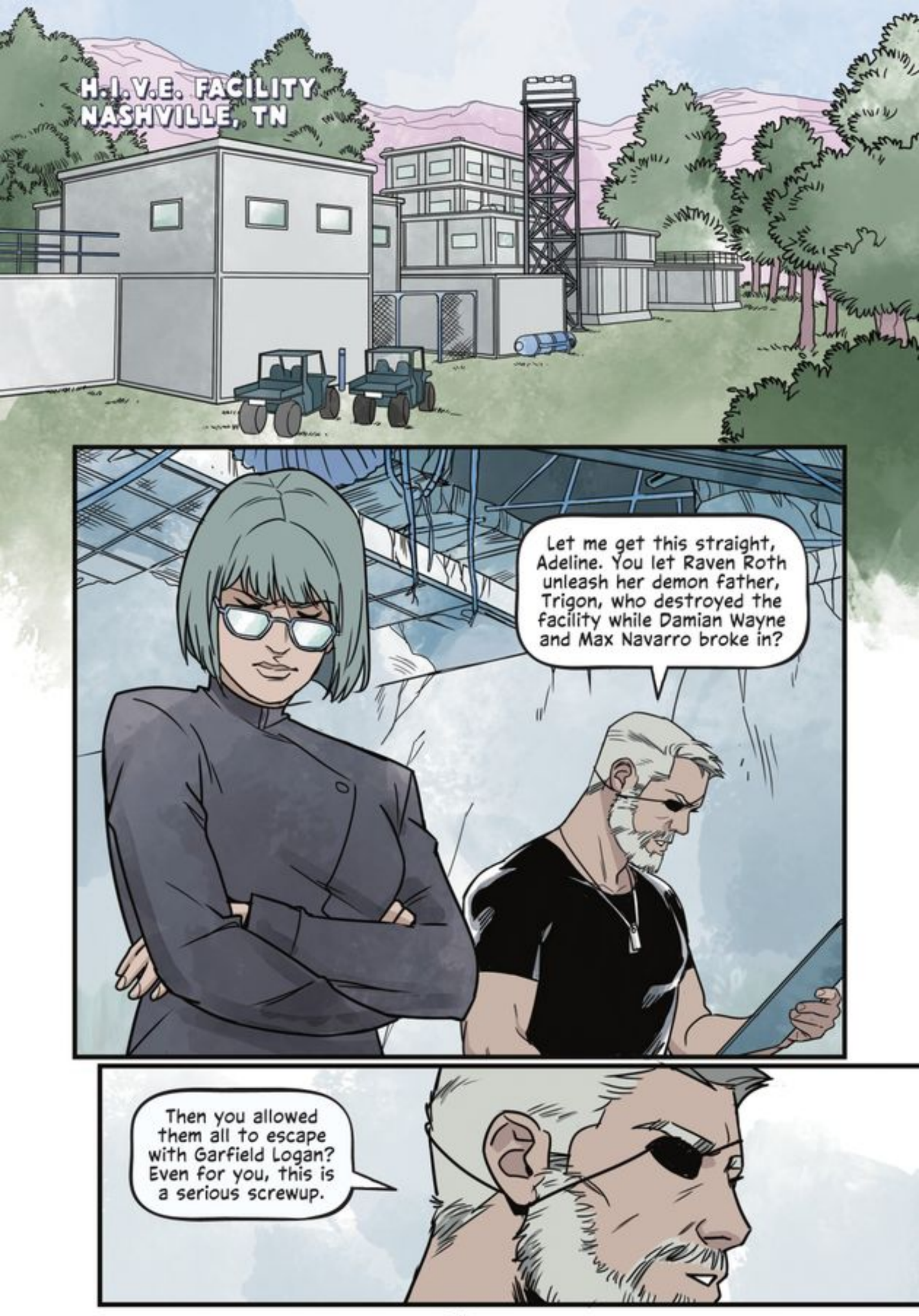

sand & sky
Alisha, Brandon, Anthony, and Kori, you'll be inside.
Evan, Melinda, Kira, Lydia, and Jenna, you're on the beach.
Why does Kori always get to be inside? It's her turn to be on the beach.
I can give it a try.
All right. Jenna inside. Kori on the beach. Now get to work!


You don't have anything to prove.
Stop treating me like I'm incapable.
I'm treating you like my sister, who isn't establishing healthy limits. How many spoons will this use up?
When I explained the spoon method of using imaginary spoons to represent the amount of energy I have before my body taps out on me, I didn't know Kira was paying attention.
Who are you, and what have you done with my sister?
Answer the question.
I'm not sure.
Four out of my ten spoons for the day, maybe?

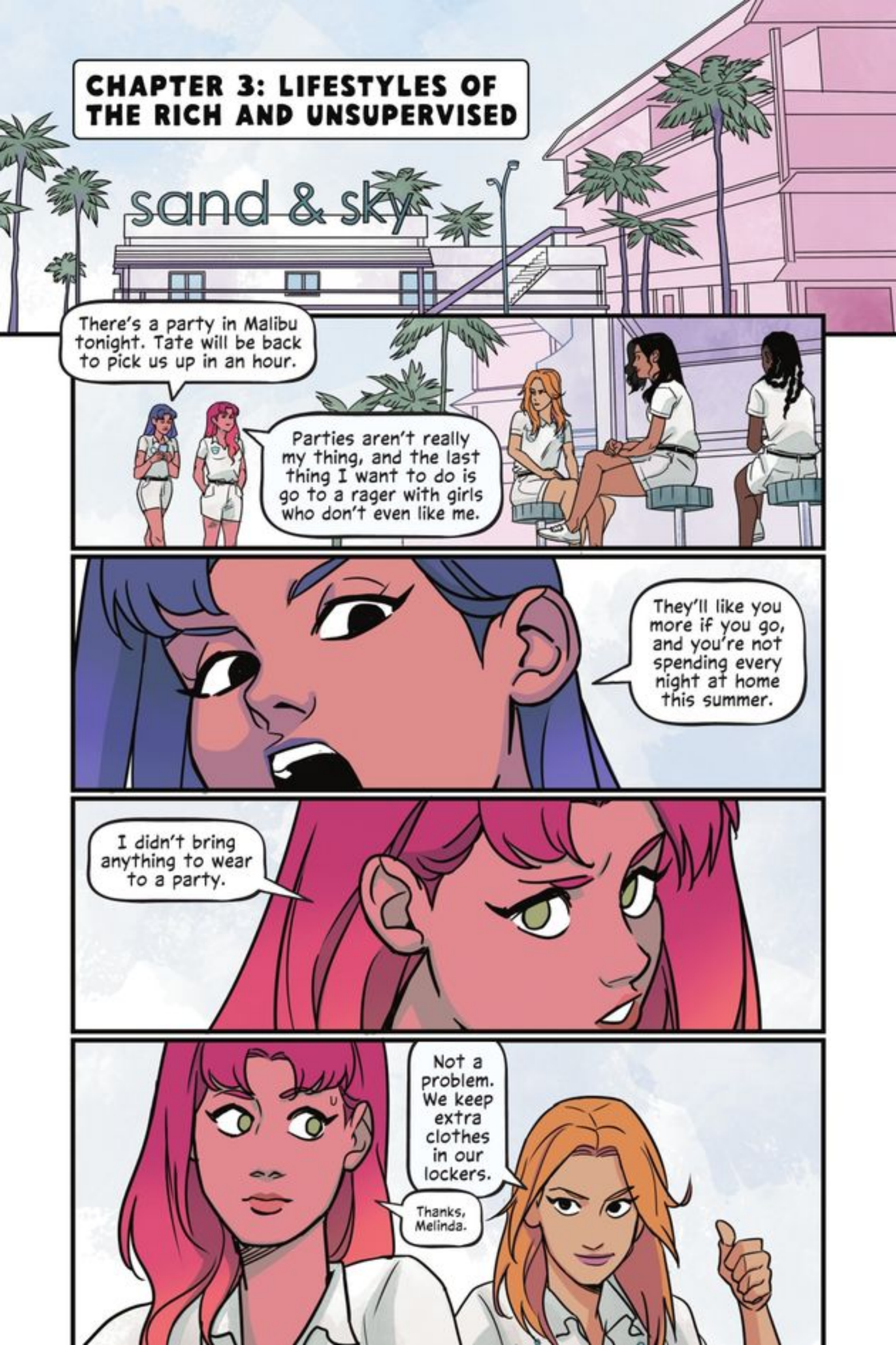
The anti-inflammatories are the blue ones, right?
Yes, Mom.
Happy now?
At least you'll finally get some sun.

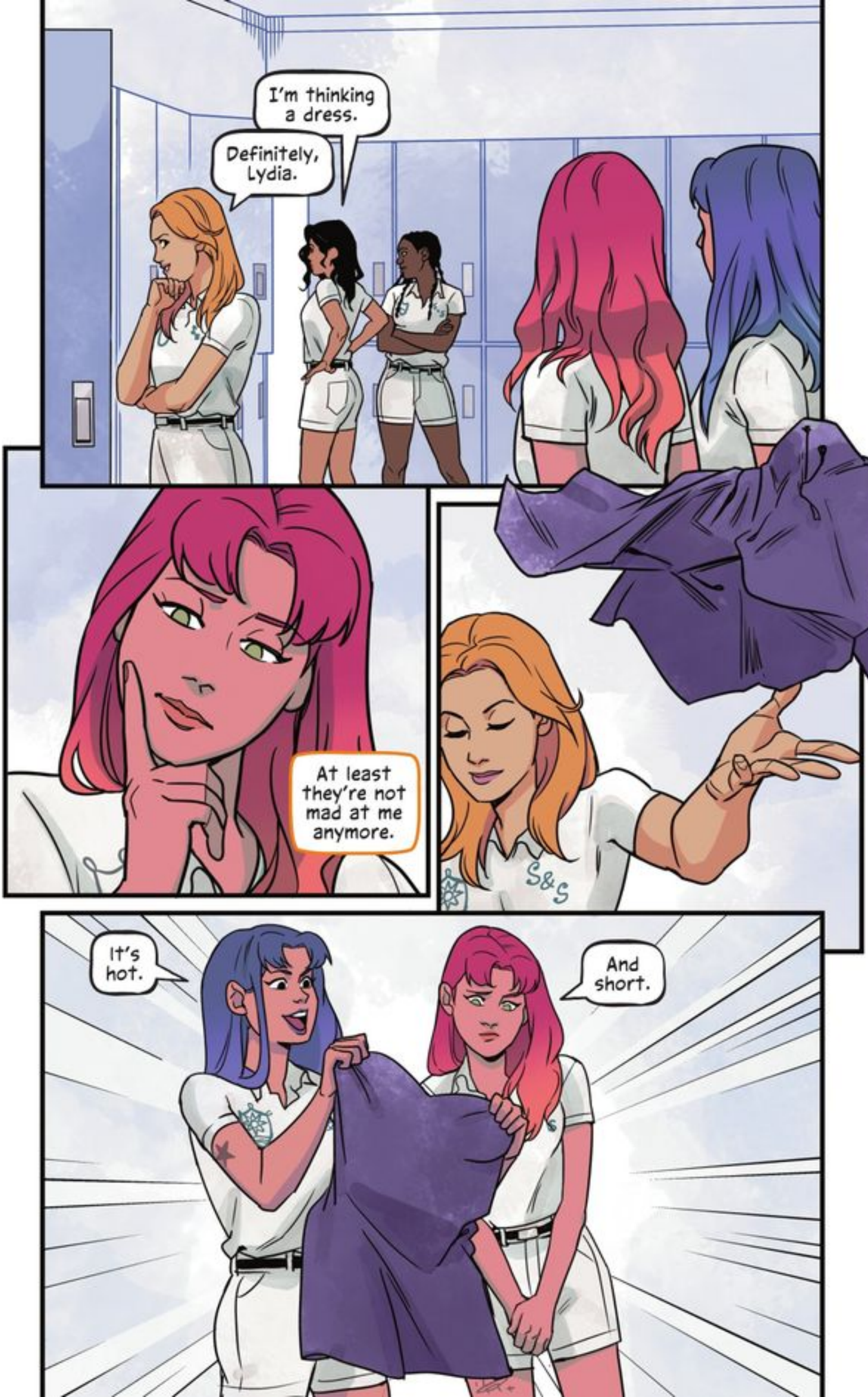

LATER
This is a lot harder than it looks.
Right here is perfect.
Try it, and you'll lose that arm.


She's a smoke show.
And I'm gonna talk to her.
Guys never notice me when Kira's around.
Case in point.


H.I.V.E. FACILITY
NASHVILLE, TN
Let me get this straight, Adeline. You let Raven Roth unleash her demon father, Trigon, who destroyed the facility while Damian Wayne and Max Navarro broke in?
Then you allowed them all to escape with Garfield Logan? Even for you, this is a serious screwup.

Shut up and give me the list.
After seeing what you and your lackeys allowed to happen here, I'll keep it to myself. I don't need you scaring off the next kid before I get my hands on her.


CHAPTER 3: LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND UNSUPERVISED
sand & sky
There's a party in Malibu tonight. Tate will be back to pick us up in an hour.
Parties aren't really my thing, and the last thing I want to do is go to a rager with girls who don't even like me.
They'll like you more if you go, and you're not spending every night at home this summer.
I didn't bring anything to wear to a party.
Not a problem. We keep extra clothes in our lockers.
Thanks, Melinda.


I'm thinking a dress.
Definitely, Lydia.
At least they're not mad at me anymore.
S&S
It's hot.
And short.

I usually don't wear things that make me stand out so much.
Let me guess... possessive boyfriend or girlfriend?
We'd never let the guys we date dictate how we dress...
...or anything else.
But Kori's single.
I just haven't met the one.
This summer might change that. Sand & Sky parties are swarming with guys.

Does anyone have a brush?
In my bag.
You don't have to do my makeup if you need to get ready, Alisha.
It's sorta my thing.
Alisha's a beauty influencer.
I can't even influence my sister enough to convince her to let me go home.

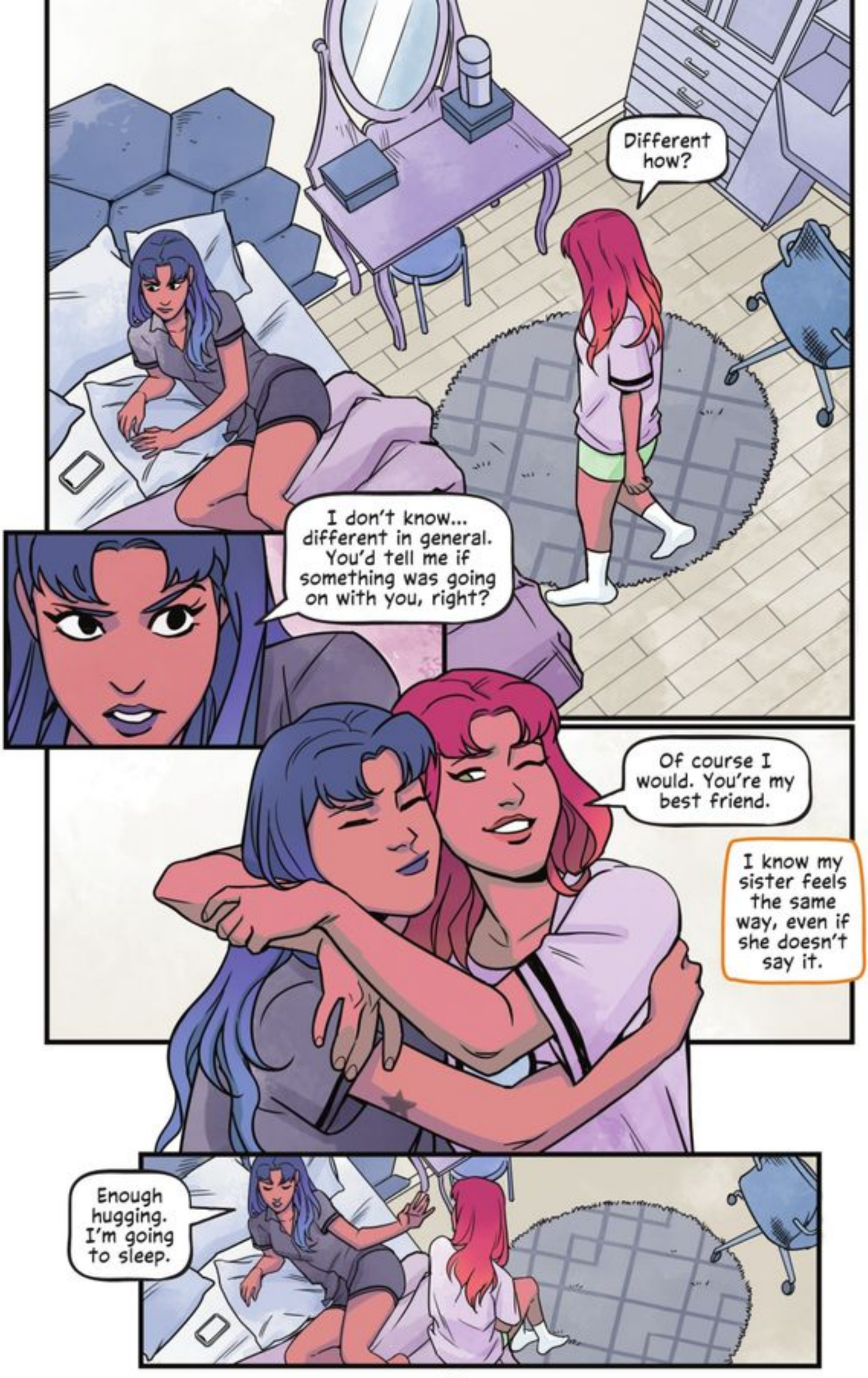
LATER
This house is incredible.
This is SO not my scene.

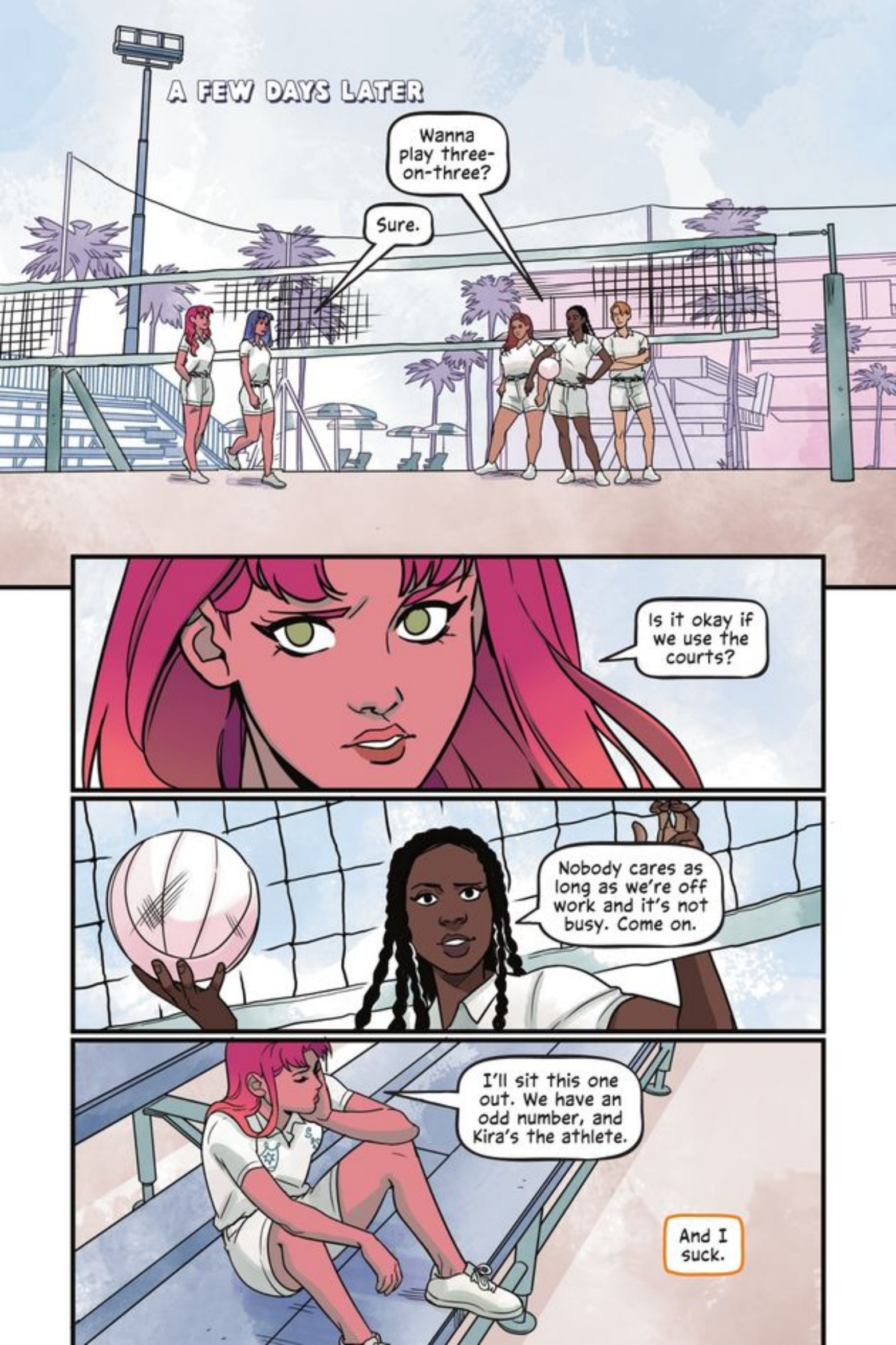
Why did I agree to wear this? It's not me.
Don't turn around, but Alex Tan and Will Bryant just walked in.
Kori! I said not to turn around!
Sorry.
Why did I let my sister talk me into coming?

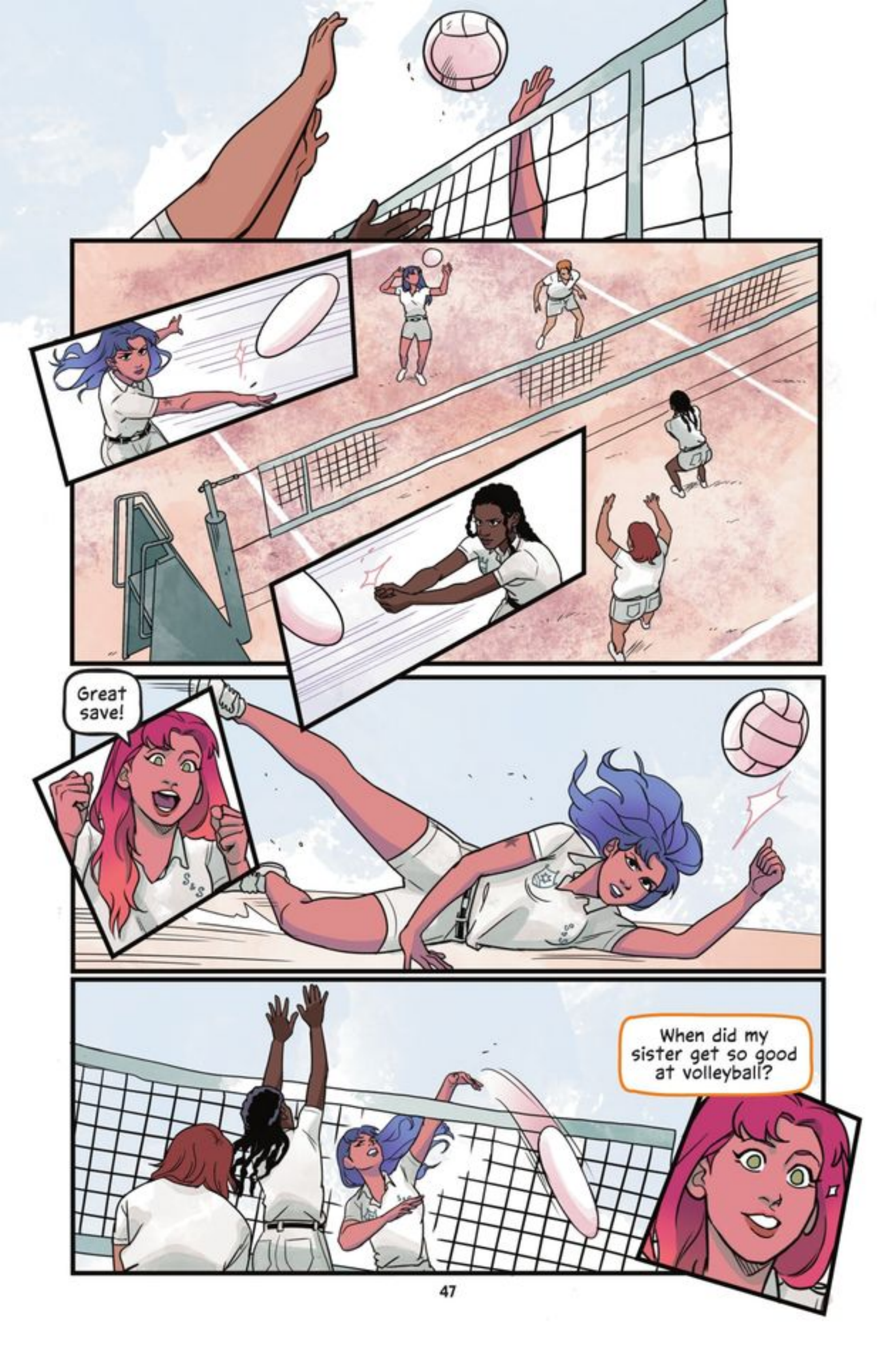
Somewhere to hide out until this is over. Thank god.
Okay...
Maybe I'm not completely sorry I came.
Phoenix, the firebird. My favorite constellation.

TWO HOURS LATER
Kori? Are you out here?
Yeah.
I've been looking everywhere for you. We're leaving.
Sorry. It was just so loud in there.
Whatever.

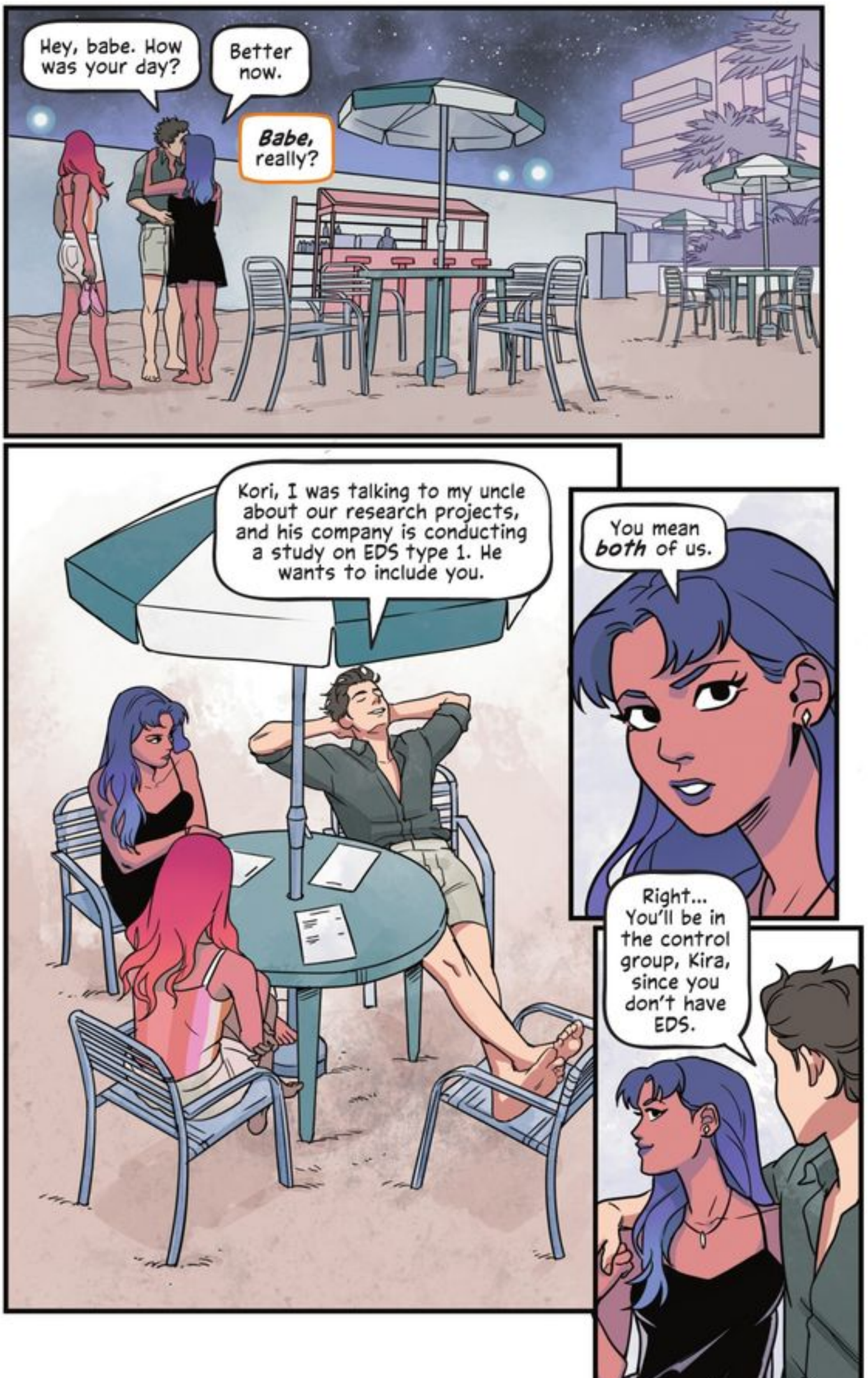
AN HOUR LATER
Sorry about disappearing at the party.
What were you doing out on the terrace, anyway?
Looking at the constellations. Why?
Because you've been acting weird. Are you feeling okay? I mean, nothing's *different*, right?

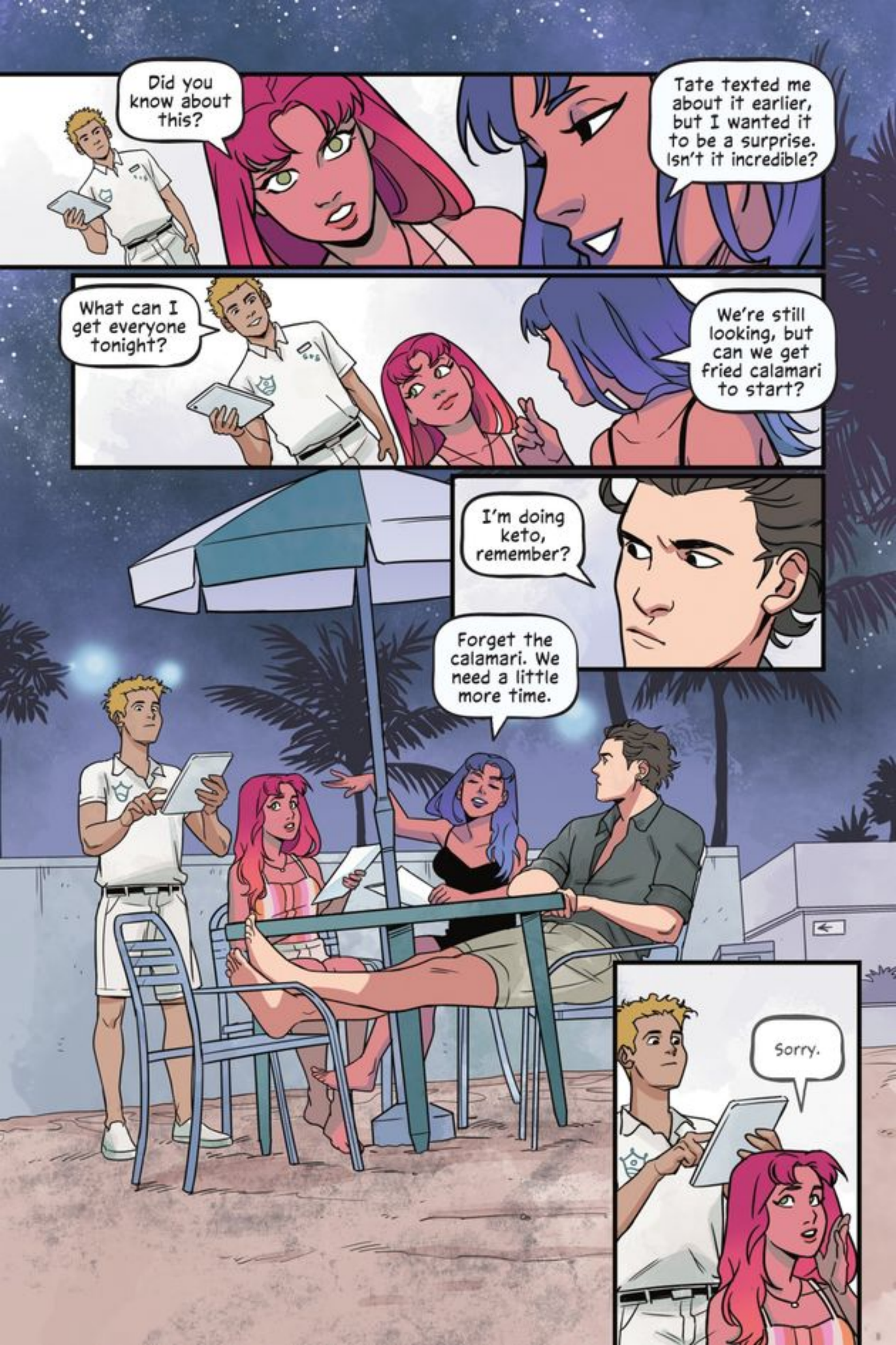

Different how?
I don't know... different in general. You'd tell me if something was going on with you, right?
Of course I would. You're my best friend.
I know my sister feels the same way, even if she doesn't say it.
Enough hugging. I'm going to sleep.


A FEW DAYS LATER
Wanna play three-on-three?
Sure.
Is it okay if we use the courts?
Nobody cares as long as we're off work and it's not busy. Come on.
I'll sit this one out. We have an odd number, and Kira's the athlete.
And I suck.

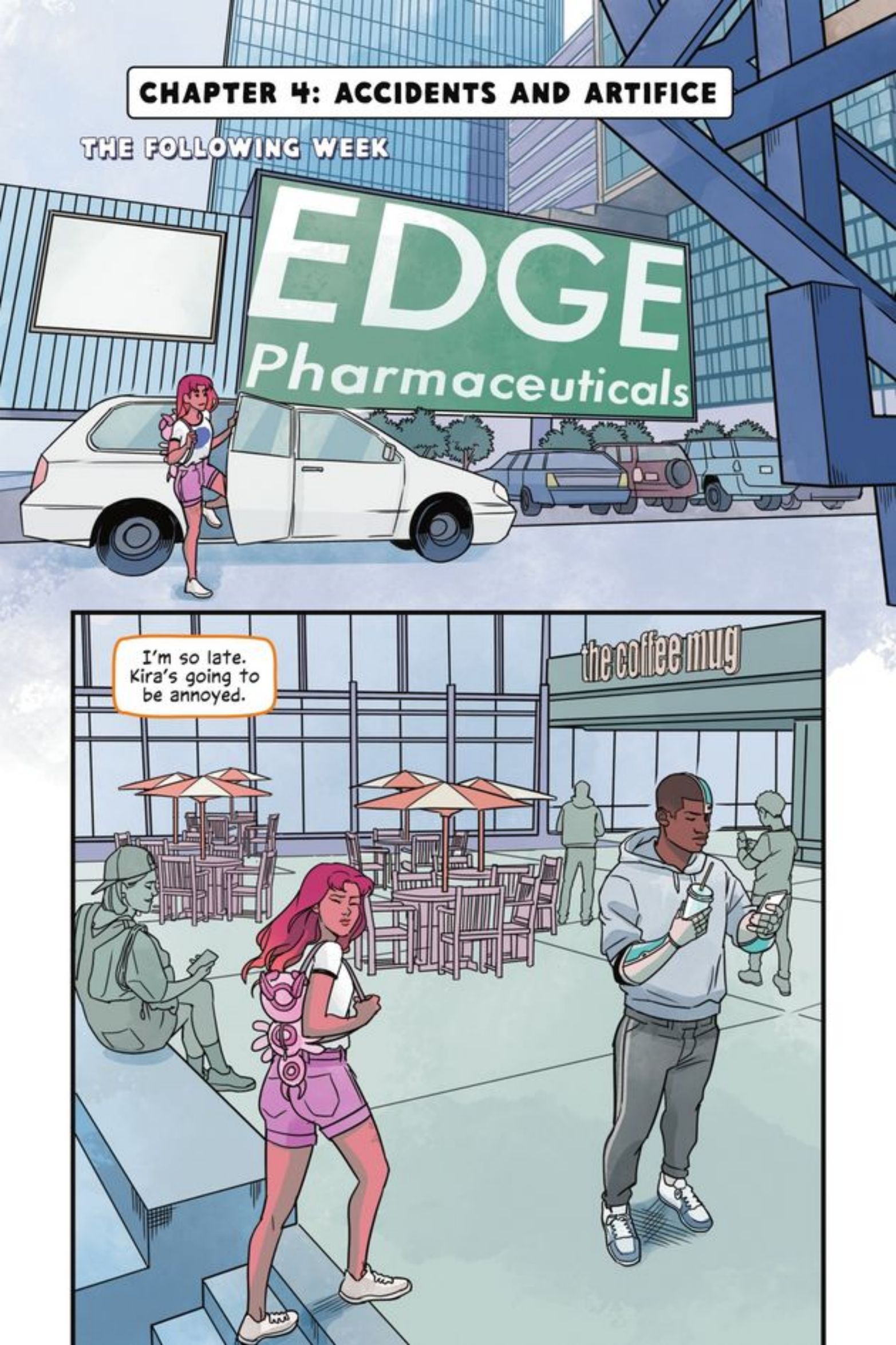

Great save!
When did my sister get so good at volleyball?

That was incredible! You must've played a lot this year at U.C.S.D. You've gotten so much better!
I'm not that good.
We need to change. Tate's meeting us at the grill after he gets off work.
I'm not sure hanging out at his uncle's pharmaceutical company all day doing nothing qualifies as work.
ladie
locke


Hey, babe. How was your day?
Better now.
Babe, really?
Kori, I was talking to my uncle about our research projects, and his company is conducting a study on EDS type 1. He wants to include you.
You mean both of us.
Right... You'll be in the control group, Kira, since you don't have EDS.


Did you know about this?
Tate texted me about it earlier, but I wanted it to be a surprise. Isn't it incredible?
What can I get everyone tonight?
We're still looking, but can we get fried calamari to start?
I'm doing keto, remember?
Forget the calamari. We need a little more time.
Sorry.

What will I have to do to participate in the study?
It's a case-control study, so you'll do light physical activities and flexibility tests, fill out questionnaires, and get your vitals taken and blood drawn.
We'll be part of a study to gather info about EDS that could end up helping people one day.
That would be amazing.
What do you think?
I'm eighteen. I don't need permission, and it's not dangerous.
I'm in.


CHAPTER 4: ACCIDENTS AND ARTIFICE
THE FOLLOWING WEEK
EDGE
Pharmaceuticals
I'm so late. Kira's going to be annoyed.
the coffee mug

I know I wrote down the suite number.
SPACE
CRAASHH
Vic

Oh my gosh! I'm so, so sorry!
That was completely my fault. I'm late and I wasn't paying attention.
Don't sweat it.
Let me buy you another drink.
SPACE
SPACE

No need, seriously. I should cut down on the caffeine anyway.
You're sure?
Get going. You said you were late.
Thanks!

Come on... Which floor?

This is the slowest elevator ever!
DING
I'm so late.
RESEARC
RESEARC
RESEARC
RESEARCH

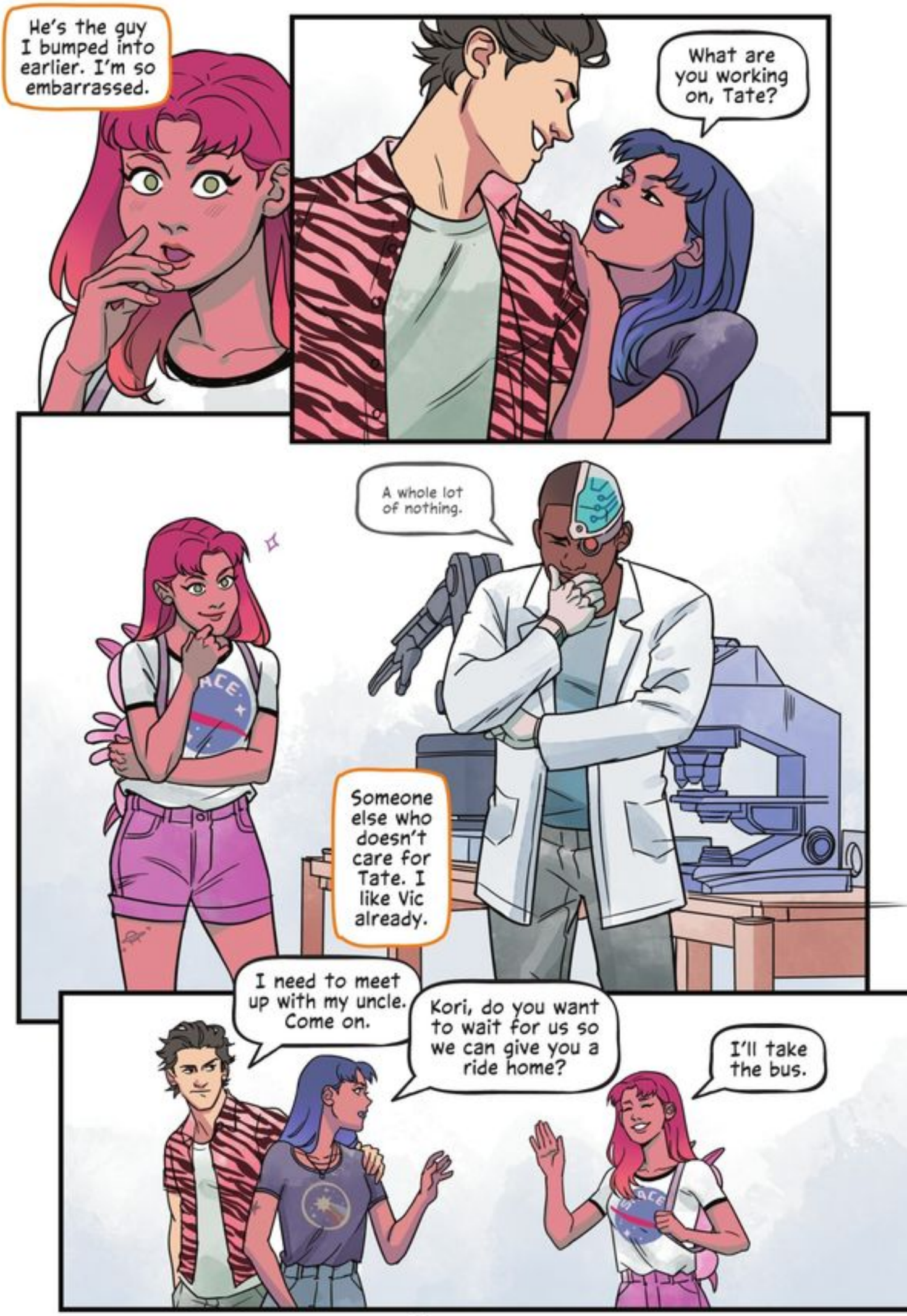
LAB
You're twenty minutes late!
I bumped into this guy, and then I couldn't find the wing.
I found her. She got turned around.
Not a problem. We'll wait in the hallway while you two get your vitals taken and blood drawn.
I thought Kori wasn't going to show.
I told you I had it handled. Kira is all over this.

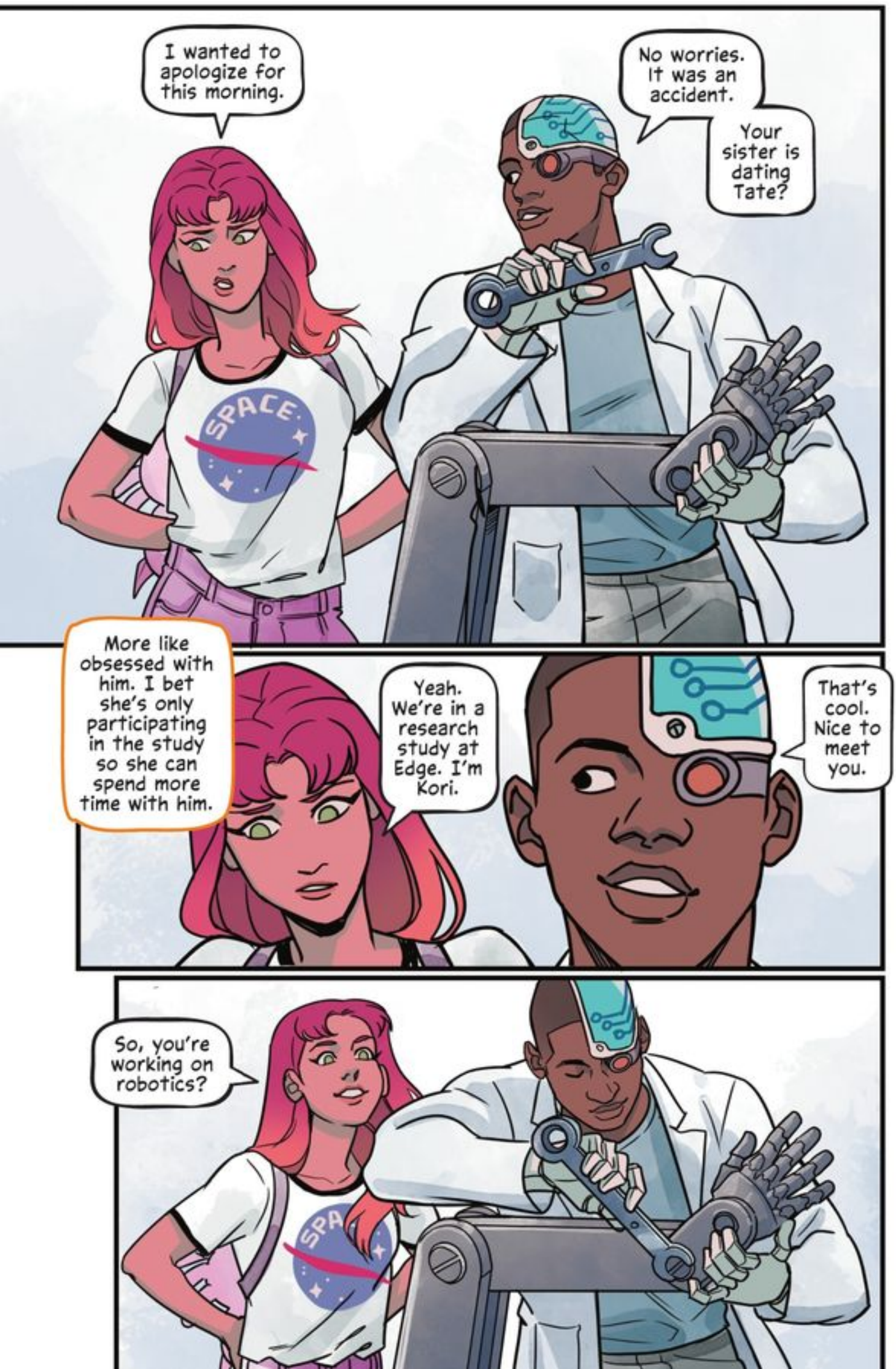
Did you tell her?
I'm not stupid. I just meant Kira wouldn't let her sister bail.
Be careful. The girls are smarter than their mother. We don't want them to find out that I invented this study so we can keep an eye on them.
Relax. They may be smart, but I'm smarter.

Overconfidence is the hallmark of the unprepared. You have to consider every possible scenario, and then plan for them all.
I hear you. But I've got this. Kira trusts me.
You'd better hope you're right. I need to know if both girls have powers, or just Kira.

How's my girl?
Okay, I guess.
Now I'll give you both the grand tour.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
And last but not least, this is our experimental research lab, where Tate is working this summer. I'll let him show you around.
I'll introduce you to my buddy Vic. He's from Kansas City.
Detroit.


He's the guy I bumped into earlier. I'm so embarrassed.
What are you working on, Tate?
A whole lot of nothing.
Someone else who doesn't care for Tate. I like Vic already.
I need to meet up with my uncle. Come on.
Kori, do you want to wait for us so we can give you a ride home?
I'll take the bus.

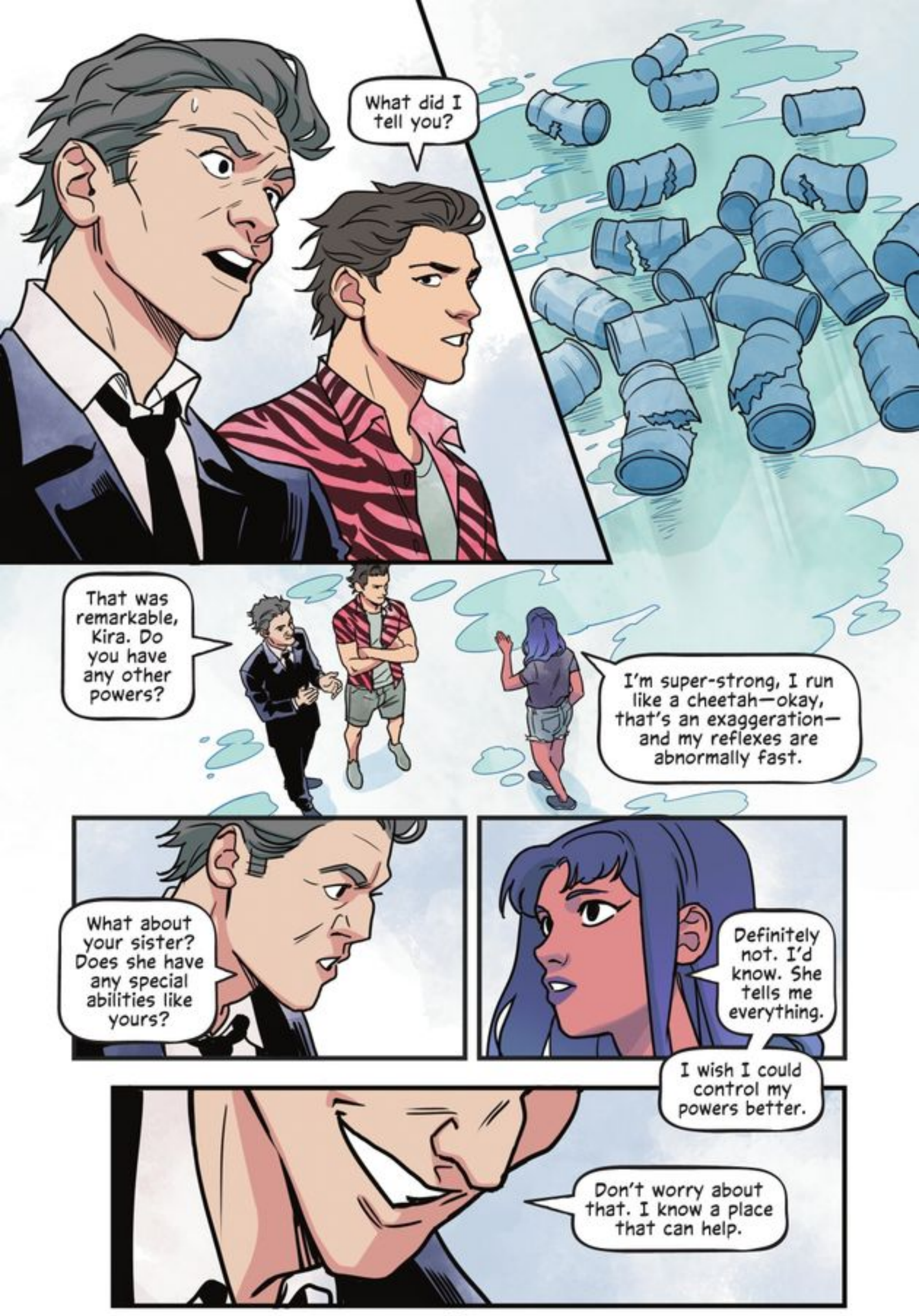

I wanted to apologize for this morning.
No worries. It was an accident.
Your sister is dating Tate?
SPACE
More like obsessed with him. I bet she's only participating in the study so she can spend more time with him.
Yeah. We're in a research study at Edge. I'm Kori.
That's cool. Nice to meet you.
So, you're working on robotics?

Haptics and integrated prosthetics. I'm here for the summer on an internship from S.T.A.R. Labs.
I'll be around a lot because of the study. Maybe I'll stop by and you can tell me more about it.
It would be nice to have a friend.
Anytime.

Do we have to meet your uncle now? We had to fast for the blood work, and I'm starving.
I'll take you to eat as soon as we finish. I want you to show him what you can do.
If you're sure...
Trust me, babe.

CHAPTER 5: INFINITE POSSIBILITIES
Kira, welcome to my sanctuary. This is where I work on projects that require the utmost discretion.
Tate tells me you have something of that nature to show me.
I guess.
There's no need to be nervous. We're practically family. Your secrets are safe with me.
Go ahead and show him.
I don't really have control of it, so stay back.

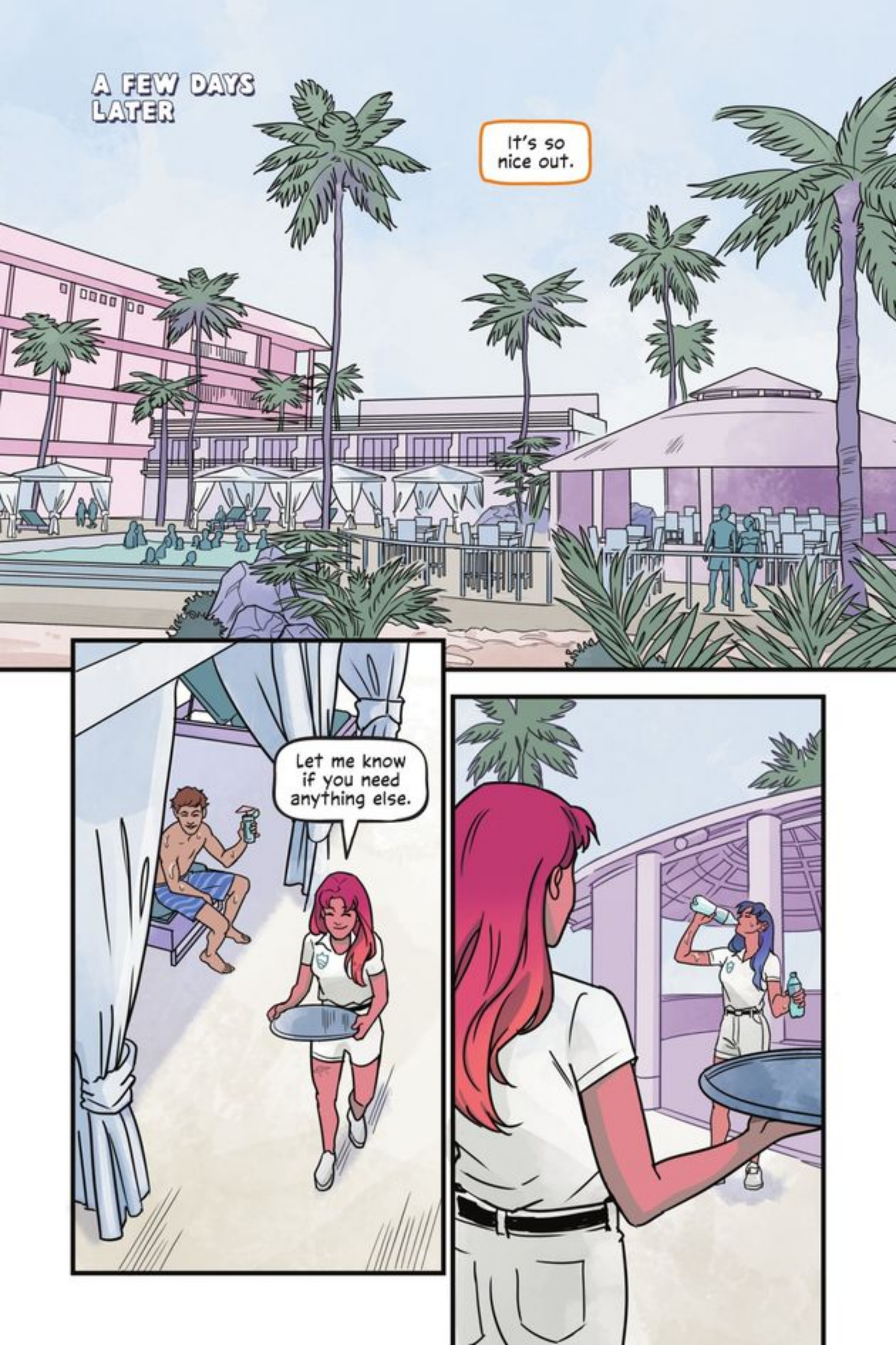
BOOOM


What did I tell you?
That was remarkable, Kira. Do you have any other powers?
I'm super-strong, I run like a cheetah—okay, that's an exaggeration—and my reflexes are abnormally fast.
What about your sister? Does she have any special abilities like yours?
Definitely not. I'd know. She tells me everything.
I wish I could control my powers better.
Don't worry about that. I know a place that can help.

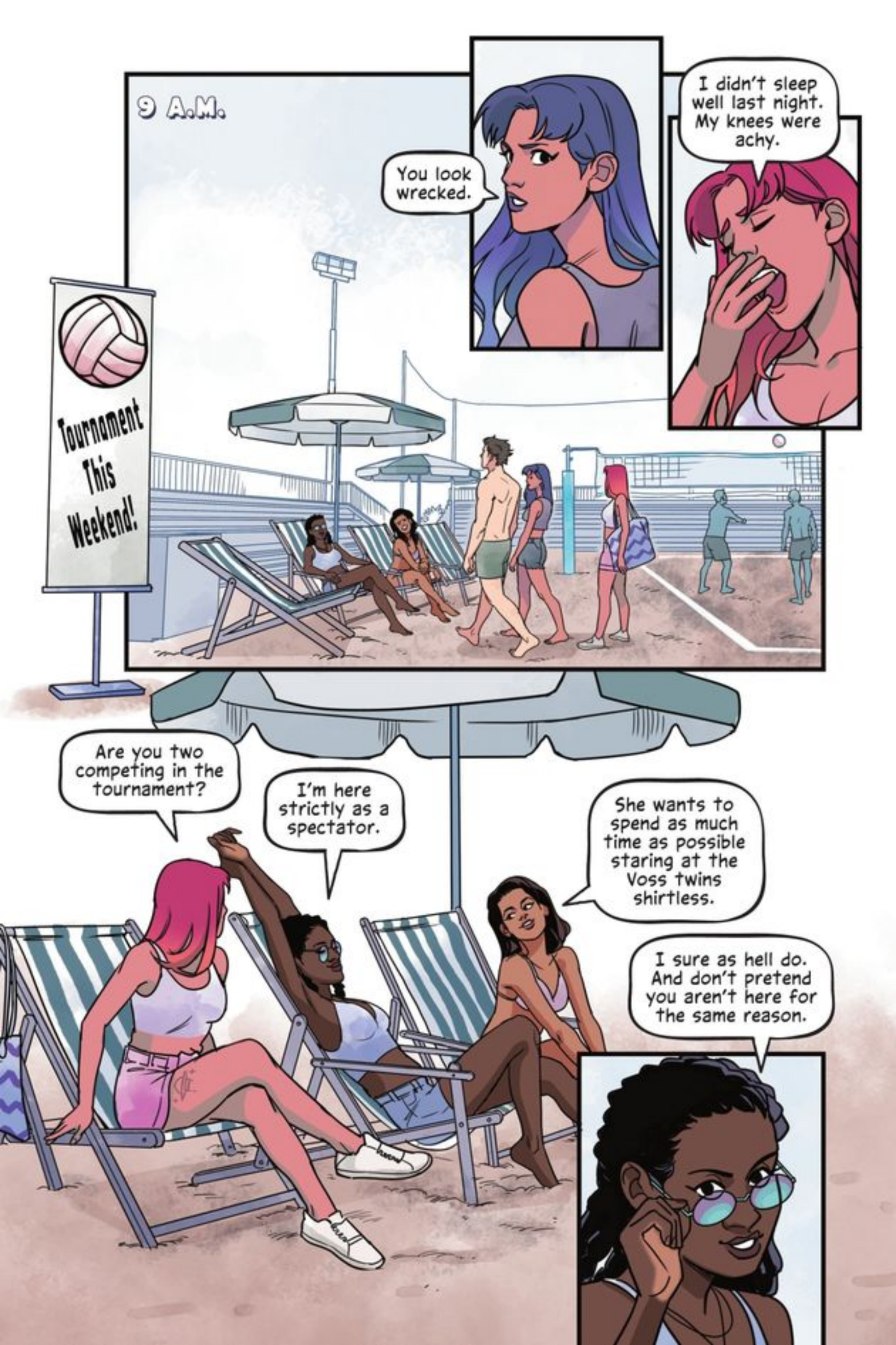
LATER THAT NIGHT
Why do my knees hurt so much tonight? Even heat wraps aren't helping. Maybe it's the weather.
Or the barometric pressure changed too quickly. Or I did too much walking today at Edge. It could be anything.
I wish Mom was home, but she's at Lynch's, as usual.

I'll just take some acetaminophen.
Come on! Open!
Crap!
TUK

Oh my god! Oh my god!
I started a fire...with *my hand.*
That's impossible. I must've lit the candle earlier and forgot. It's the only logical explanation.

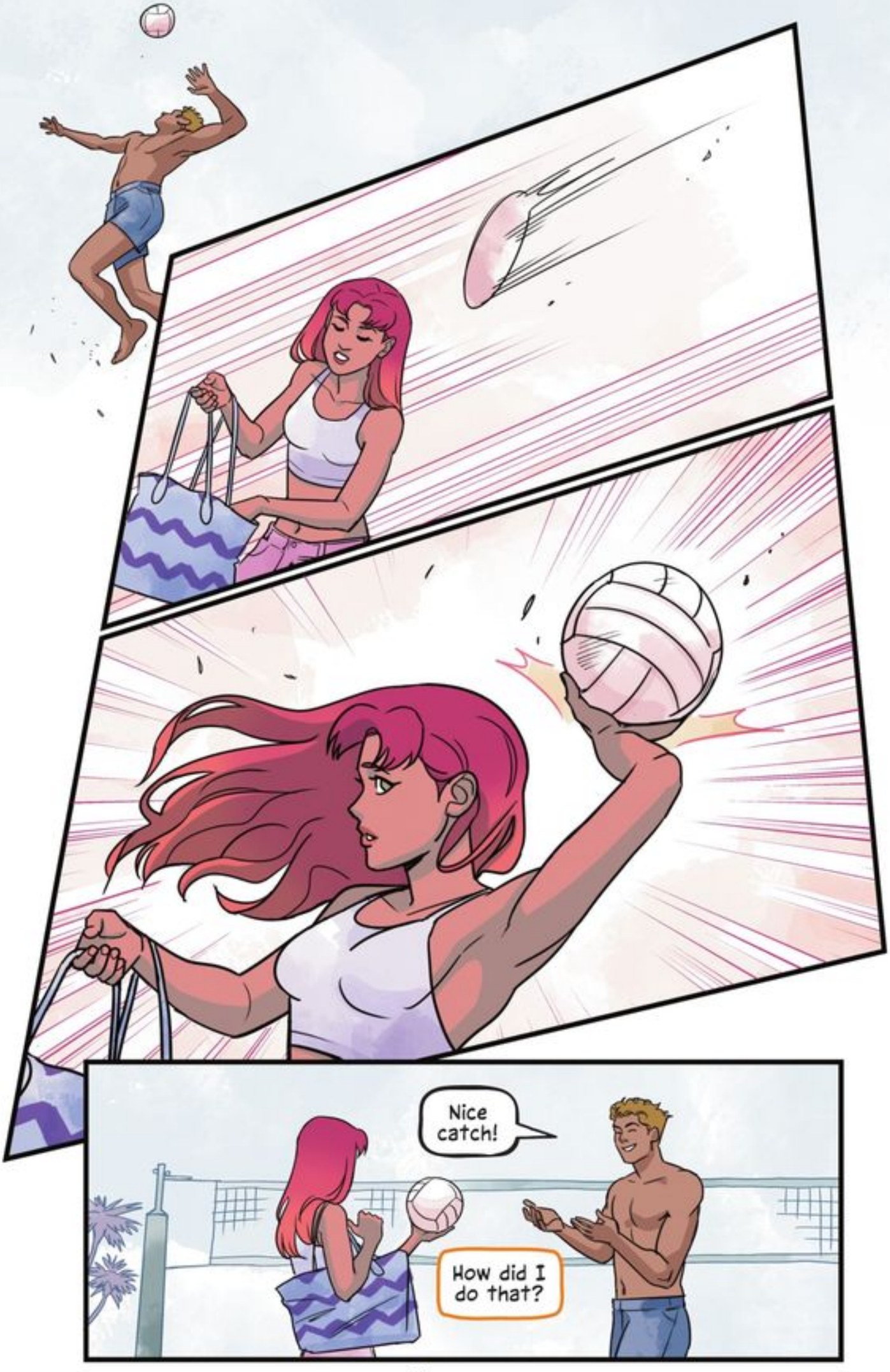

A FEW DAYS LATER
It's so nice out.
Let me know if you need anything else.

Drink this so you don't get dehydrated. I'm melting.
Really? If my knees weren't bothering me, I'd have no complaints. I'm not even hot, and I've been working outside all week.
Whatever. At least we're off tomorrow.

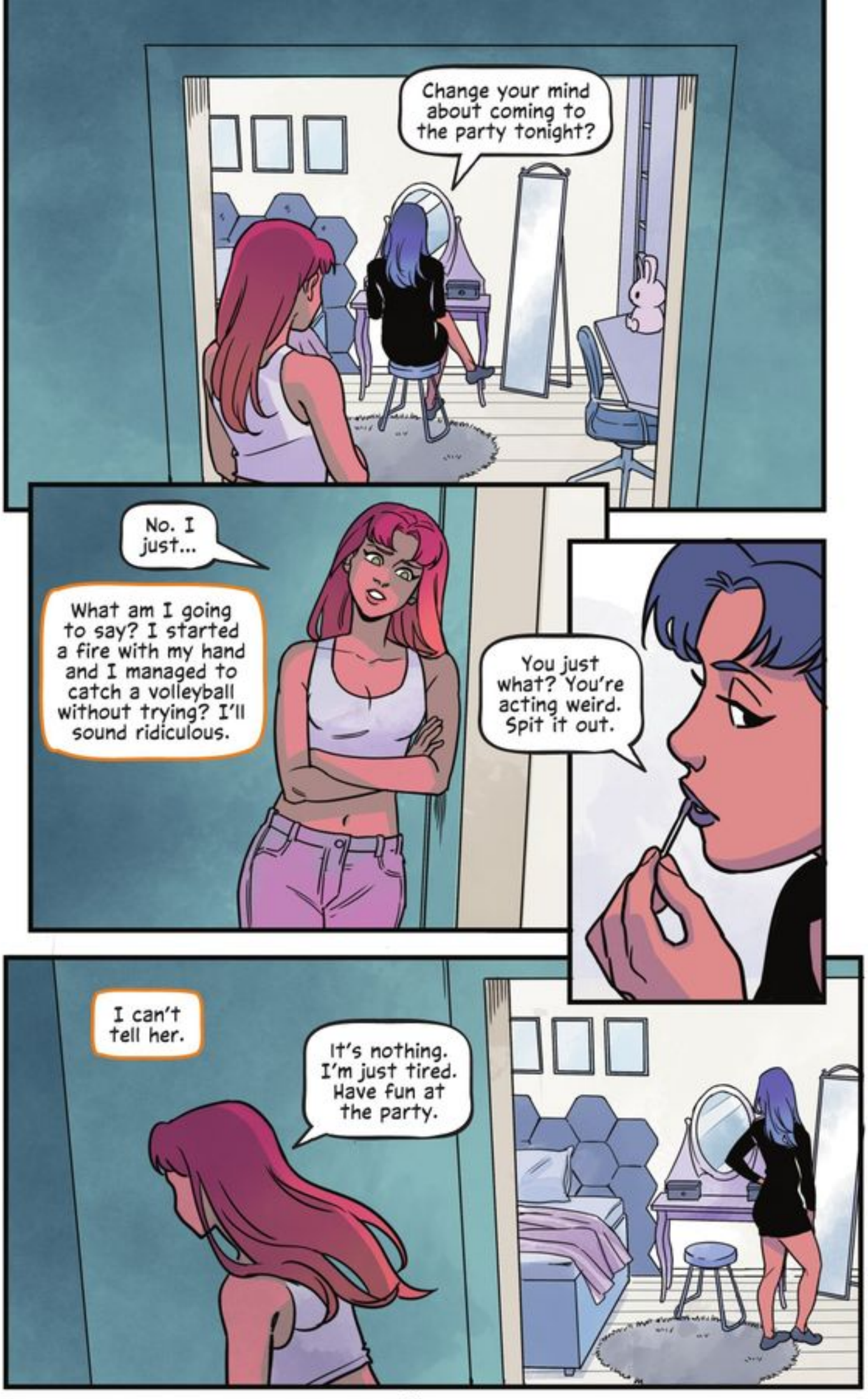

9 A.M.
You look wrecked.
I didn't sleep well last night. My knees were achy.
Tournament This Weekend!
Are you two competing in the tournament?
I'm here strictly as a spectator.
She wants to spend as much time as possible staring at the Voss twins shirtless.
I sure as hell do. And don't pretend you aren't here for the same reason.

9:30 A.M.
11:15 A.M.
2:45 P.M.
4 P.M.
Kori!
What happened?

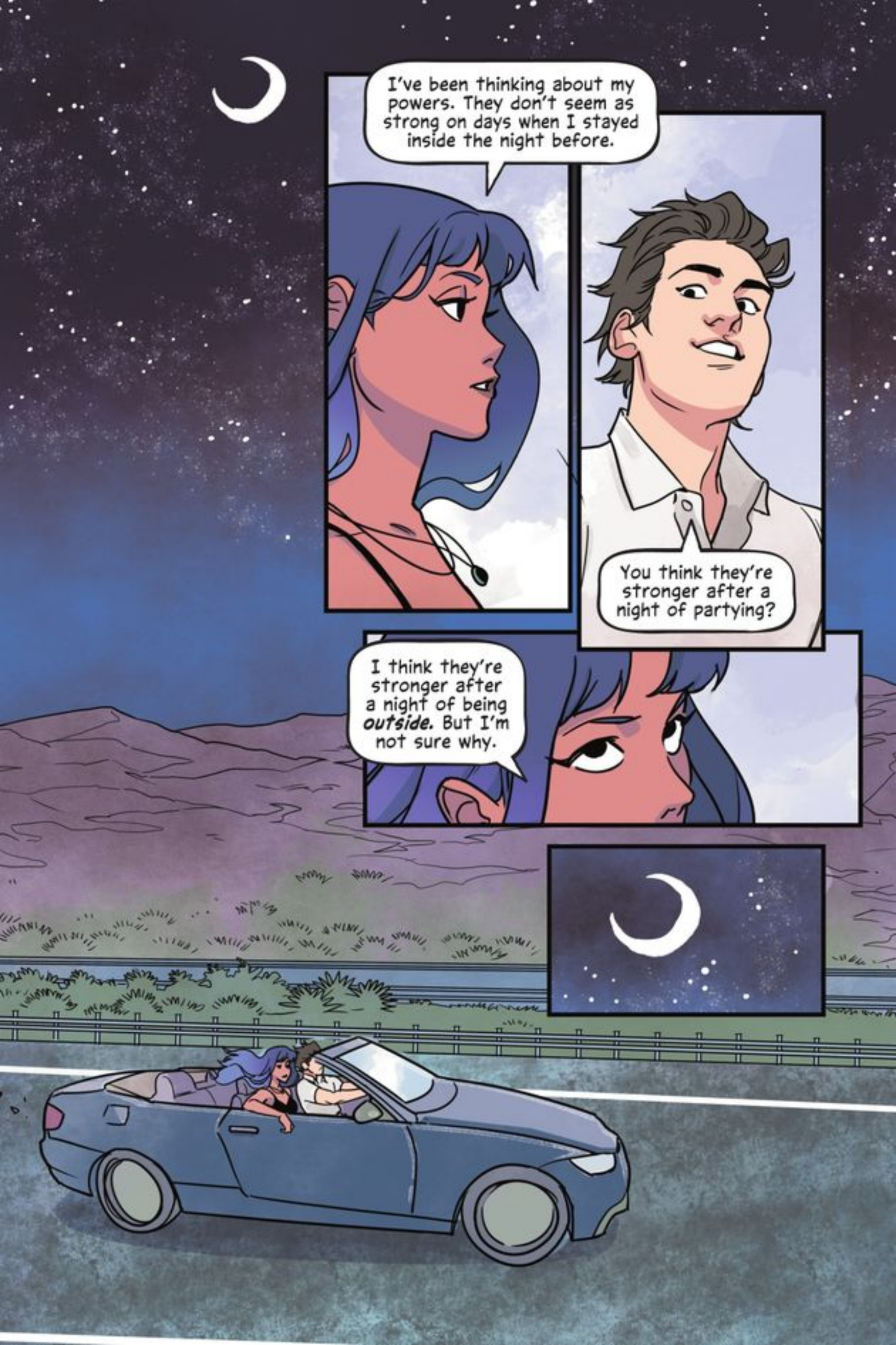
The tournament's over. Have you been asleep all day?
I guess.
Why didn't you wake her up?
Who am I to get in the way of someone trying to get her sleep on?
It's okay. I'm not even hot.
And you don't have a sunburn. I'm gonna need details on your sunscreen.
Tate is driving us home. Meet us at the valet.
Okay.


Nice catch!
How did I do that?

CHAPTER 6: LOGIC, HAPTICS, AND HOT DOGS
spoonie
What's going on with me? I explained away the fire, but now I have...what? Amazing peripheral vision and super-reflexes?
Usually, I can't catch a ball even if I'm staring at it.

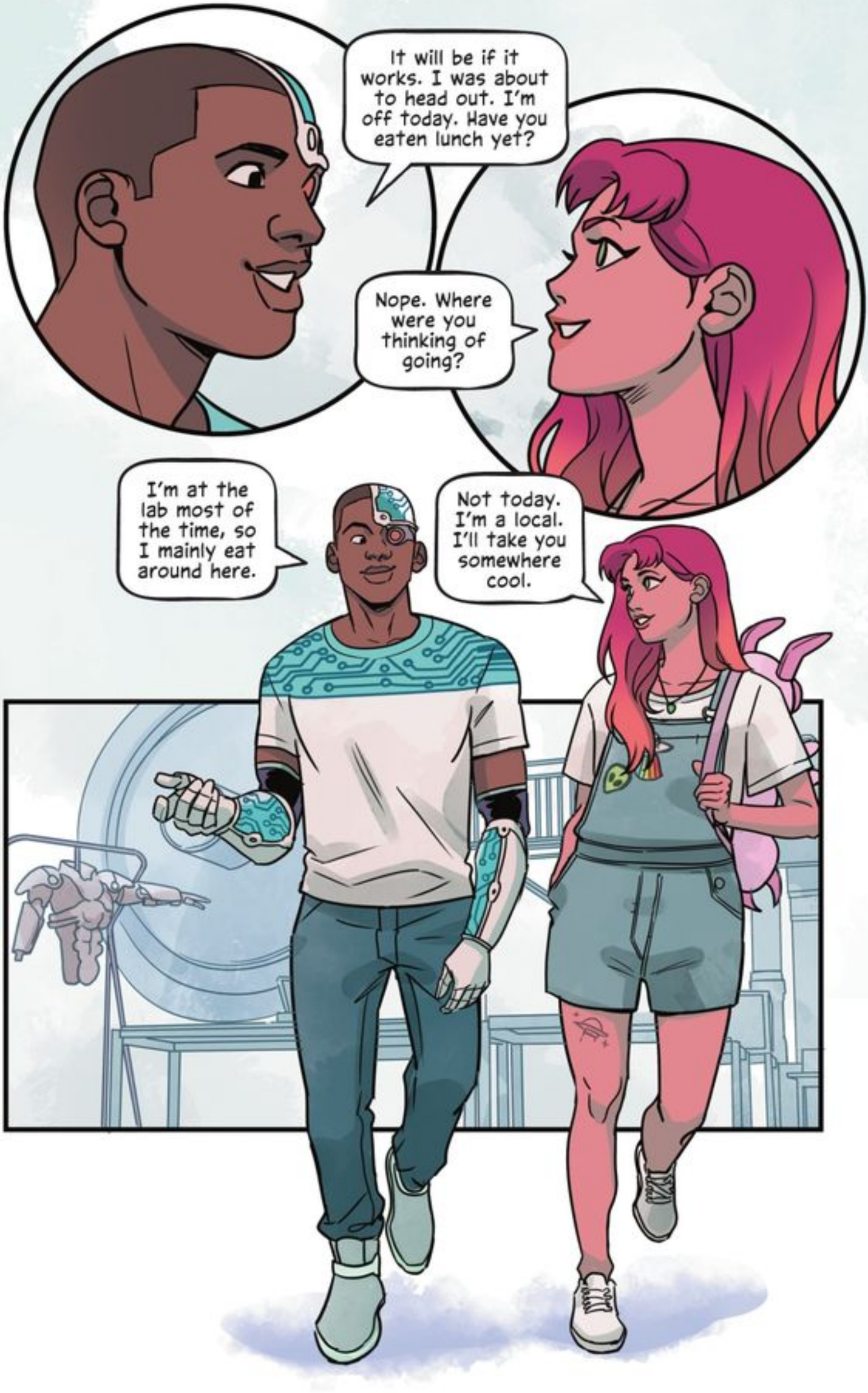

Change your mind about coming to the party tonight?
No. I just...
What am I going to say? I started a fire with my hand and I managed to catch a volleyball without trying? I'll sound ridiculous.
You just what? You're acting weird. Spit it out.
I can't tell her.
It's nothing. I'm just tired. Have fun at the party.

What's up, babe?
My sister is acting weirder than usual.
How is that different from any other day?


I've been thinking about my powers. They don't seem as strong on days when I stayed inside the night before.
You think they're stronger after a night of partying?
I think they're stronger after a night of being *outside*. But I'm not sure why.

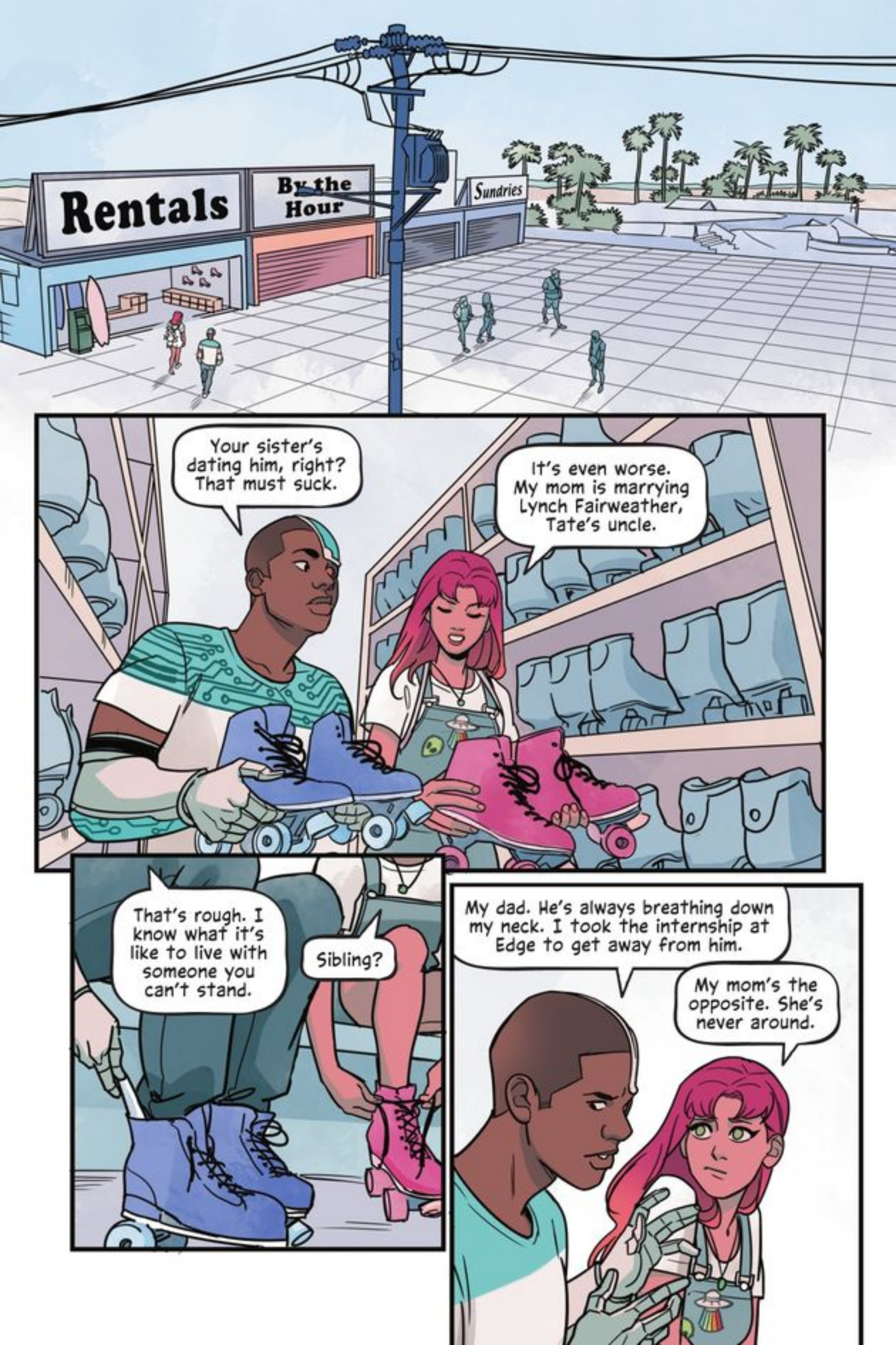
THE NEXT DAY
EDGE
ceuticals
Bye, Millie.
See you soon.
Hey. What's up?
I was here for the study and I thought I'd stop by to check out your work.

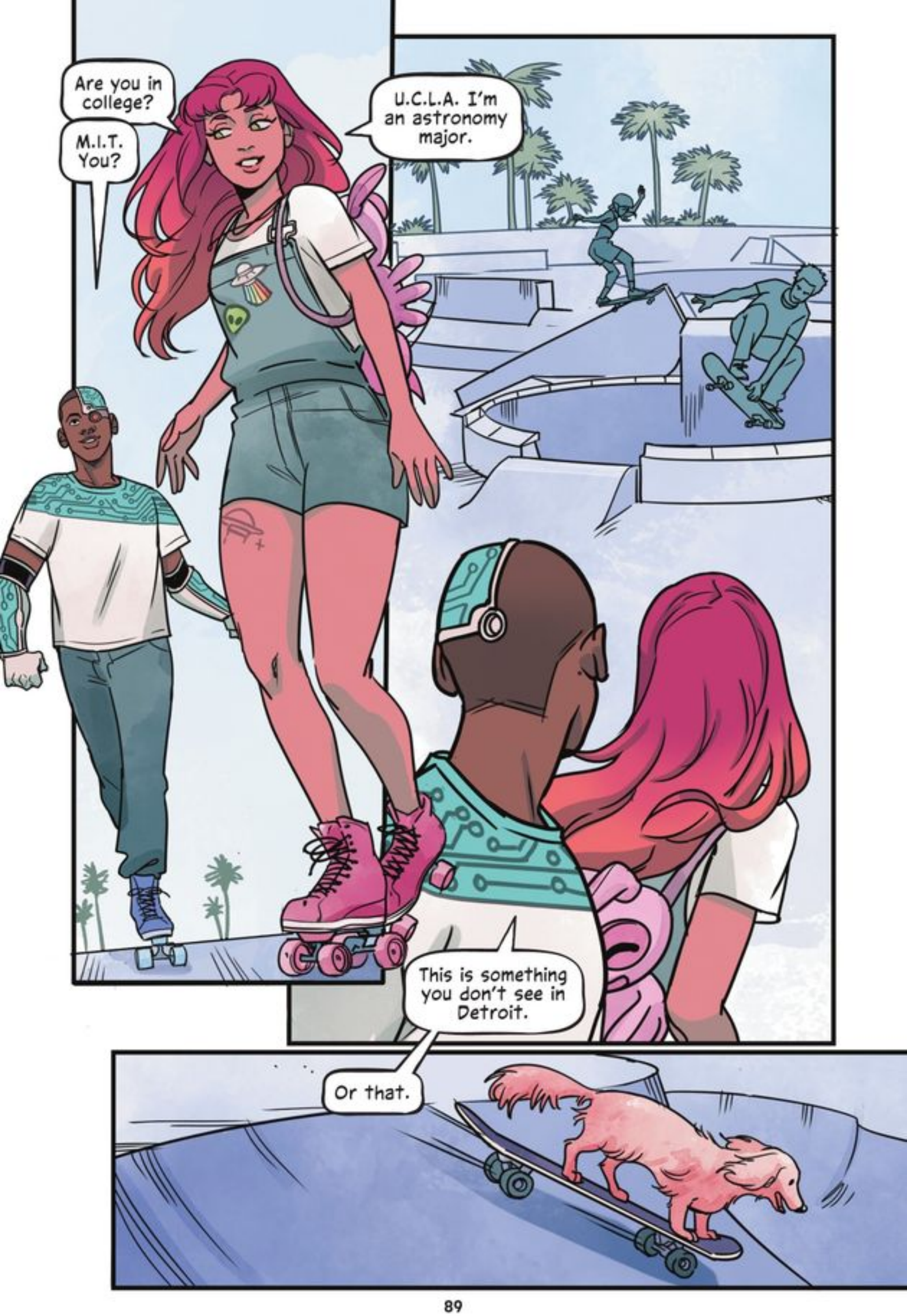
My research is related to haptics and the development of neuroprosthetics with cortical control.
Umm...
Sorry. Think of it as bionic prosthetics that interface with the brain.
Like your arm and hand?
But even more advanced.
That's incredible.


It will be if it works. I was about to head out. I'm off today. Have you eaten lunch yet?
Nope. Where were you thinking of going?
I'm at the lab most of the time, so I mainly eat around here.
Not today. I'm a local. I'll take you somewhere cool.

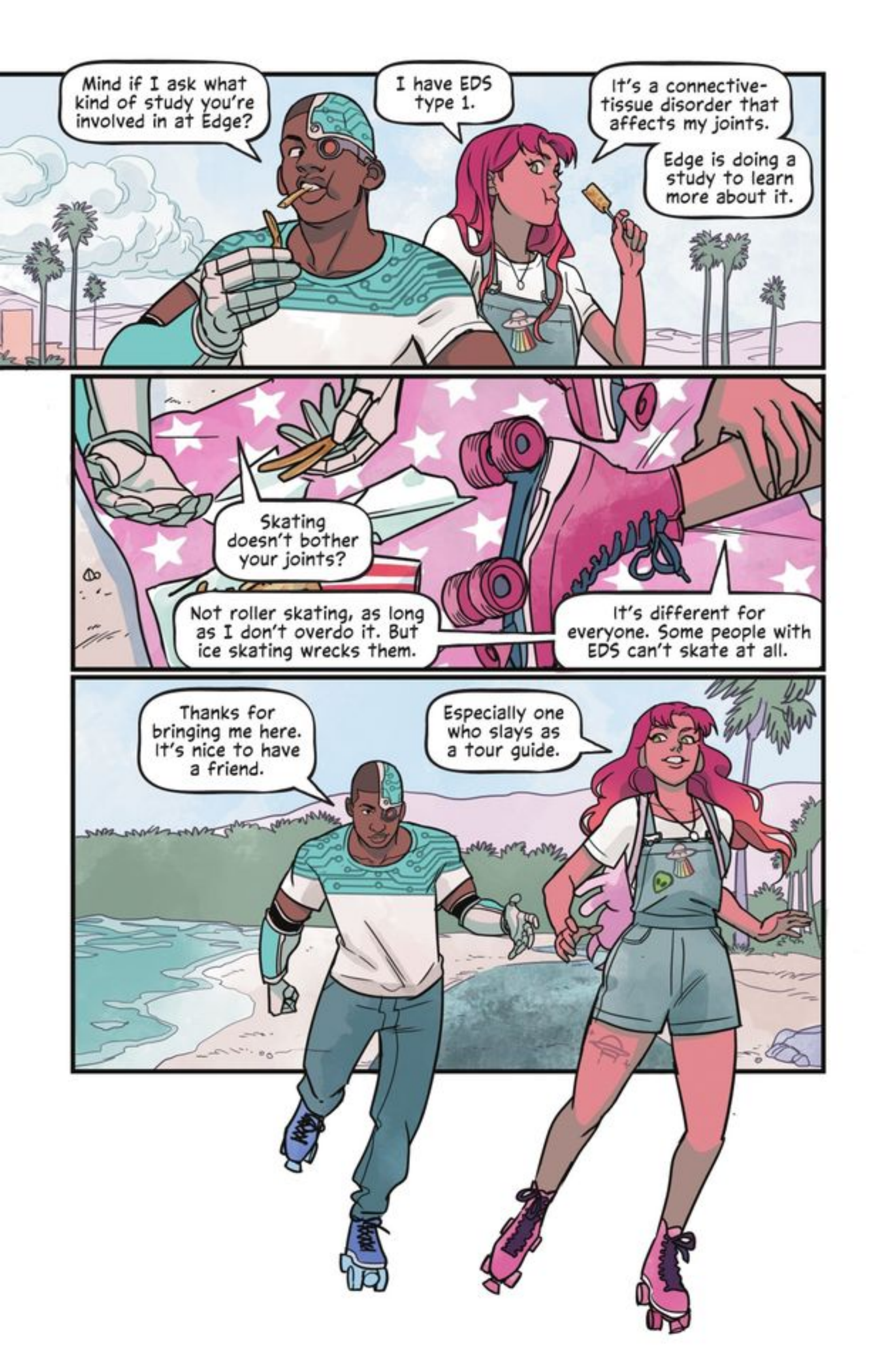
VENICE BEACH
Pacific Ave
VENICE
ON RED
blueberry bus

Where are we?
Venice.
Thanks for bringing me down here. I don't know anyone in L.A. except Tate, and I don't want to spend any more time with him than necessary. No offense.
None taken. I'm not a fan either.


Rentals
By the Hour
Sundries
Your sister's dating him, right? That must suck.
It's even worse. My mom is marrying Lynch Fairweather, Tate's uncle.
That's rough. I know what it's like to live with someone you can't stand.
Sibling?
My dad. He's always breathing down my neck. I took the internship at Edge to get away from him.
My mom's the opposite. She's never around.


Are you in college?
M.I.T. You?
U.C.L.A. I'm an astronomy major.
This is something you don't see in Detroit.
Or that.

I need a break. Hope you're hungry. This is one of my favorite places.
CORN DOG AT THE BEACH
FRESH LEMONADE
Then you're in charge of ordering.
Two hot dogs, two orders of fries, and two lemonades.
It's good.

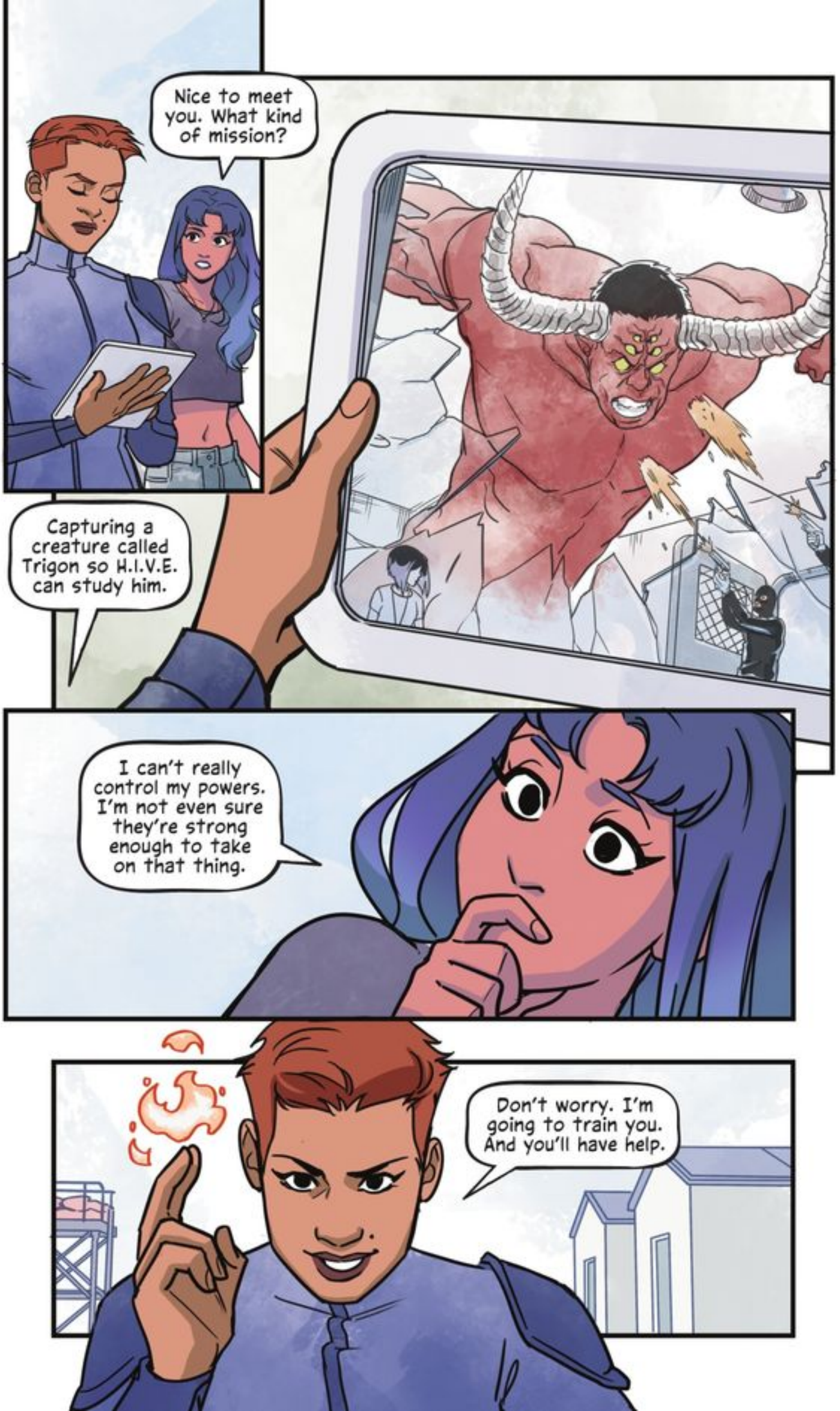

Mind if I ask what kind of study you're involved in at Edge?
I have EDS type 1.
It's a connective-tissue disorder that affects my joints.
Edge is doing a study to learn more about it.
Skating doesn't bother your joints?
Not roller skating, as long as I don't overdo it. But ice skating wrecks them.
It's different for everyone. Some people with EDS can't skate at all.
Thanks for bringing me here. It's nice to have a friend.
Especially one who slays as a tour guide.

CHAPTER 7: POWER PLAYS
H.I.V.E. TRAINING FACILITY OUTSIDE L.A.
This is a H.I.V.E. training facility where young people with extraordinary abilities, like yourself, learn to use their gifts for the greater good.
Other people like me?
You didn't think you were the only one, did you?

I can't believe it.

Like you could do any better, goth Barbie. Shouldn't you be shopping at the mall?
What'd you call me?
Let her go. I want to see how this plays out.
Be careful, princess. You don't wanna break a nail.

Impressive. What does Adeline Kane think of her?
Adeline isn't in charge here. She's busy trying to track down the creature that destroyed the Tennessee facility.
Hopefully, she won't piss the thing off even more.
Kira is the perfect candidate.
The perfect candidate for what?
I'll let Nova explain. She'll be training you for an extremely important mission.

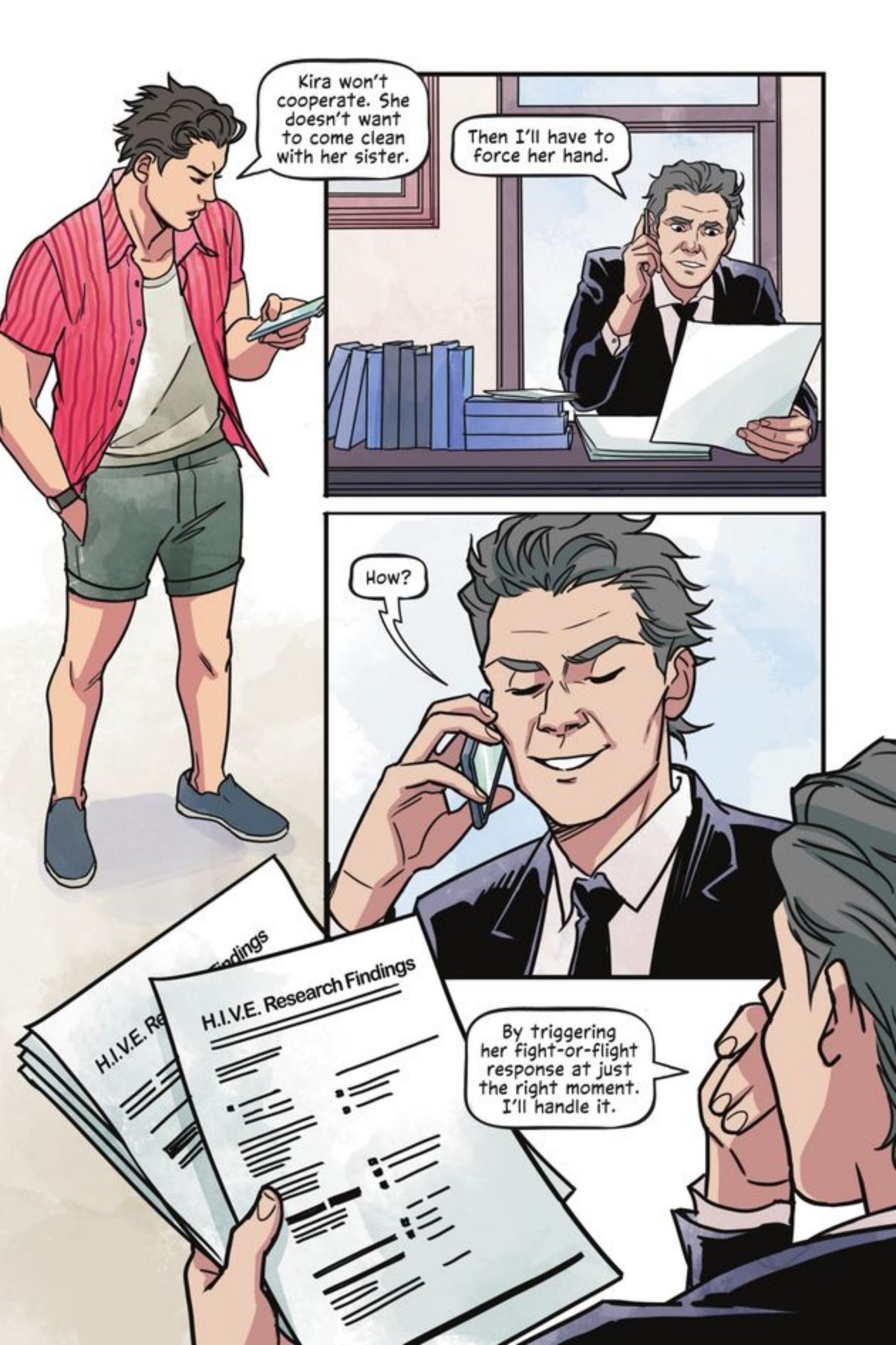

Nice to meet you. What kind of mission?
Capturing a creature called Trigon so H.I.V.E. can study him.
I can't really control my powers. I'm not even sure they're strong enough to take on that thing.
Don't worry. I'm going to train you. And you'll have help.

I bet it hits ninety-eight degrees today.
Don't say that. I'm already dying.
Really? I think it's nice out.
〈I'm starving.〉*
MENU
〈Where do we order lunch?〉
*Translated from Japanese.
〈I can take your order. What would you like to eat?〉

I just spoke Japanese. But I don't know how to speak Japanese.
〈You speak Japanese beautifully. We were looking for something light!〉
〈We have salads, and there are sushi rolls on the appetizer menu.〉
〈Sure.〉
I did it again. What's happening to me?

Your sister is so random, Kira. She hardly talks to any of us, but then I hear her bust out Japanese.
My sister doesn't speak Japanese. She didn't even pass Spanish 101.
I heard her. If you don't believe me, go ask them.
I think my sister is developing powers, too.

Why? You have powers and you can't speak Japanese.
Neither can Kori! And her powers might be different from mine.
If Kori has powers, H.I.V.E. needs to know. You should tell her about yours, so she'll confide in you.
I don't want to tell her! And H.I.V.E. doesn't need her. They already have me.


Kira won't cooperate. She doesn't want to come clean with her sister.
Then I'll have to force her hand.
How?
H.I.V.E. Research Findings
By triggering her fight-or-flight response at just the right moment. I'll handle it.

You wanted to see me, sir?
I have a job for you.
Need me to rough somebody up?
I need you to scare someone—or, more accurately, *two* someones.

Cloth Merch
LA
Who are you going to dinner with?
Vic, my friend from Edge. He's meeting me here.
Tate says he's kind of strange.
Dump Him
Maybe you should form your own opinion instead of listening to Tate all the time.

Cloth Merch LA
What's that supposed to mean?
It means you should think for yourself.

Nobody move! I wanna see your hands!
CHOS - 21:05:12
I said don't move!
She's not moving!
Shut up or I'll shoot her!

Get away from my sister!

EMPLOYEES ONLY

BOOOM!
EMPLOYEES ONLY
EMPLOYEES ONLY

EMPLOYEES ONLY
What happened? Are you two all right?
I'm fine.
I think I'm okay.
Call the cops!

I need to talk to my sister for a minute.
Do you want to explain what you just did back there?
I can't.
How long ago did it start?
A couple months.
Why don't you seem shocked? Do you have something to tell me?
I think it's happening to me, too. But I can't do anything like what you just did.
SPACE

My powers weren't as strong when they started.
Powers, plural? What else can you do?
You saw the energy-blast thing. I'm also stronger and faster, and I have killer reflexes.
I have faster reflexes, too, and suddenly I can speak Japanese.
I also accidentally started a little fire in my room... with my hand.
We'll talk about this later.

I'll be in touch if I have any more questions.
I'll see you at home later.
Are you sure you're all right?
Truth? I don't know.
Let's get outta here.
SPACE

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
Did the thermogen satellite pick up something, Dr. Starn?
I've been monitoring it for ultraviolet bursts in Los Angeles, as you requested, and it picked up one. I'll send the video now.
This better be good.

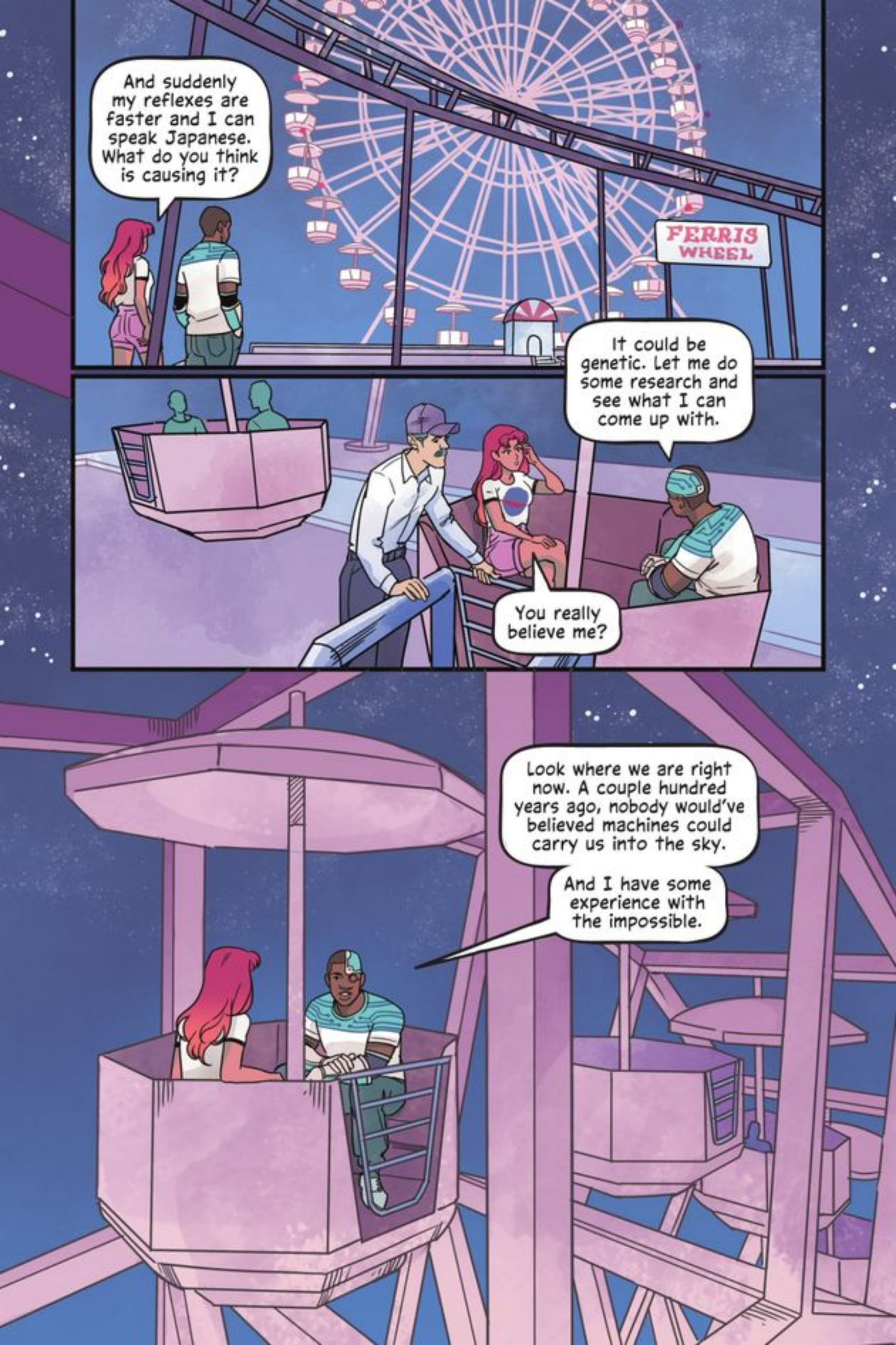
CLSFD_037.mpg
Looks like my luck is changing.

CHAPTER 8: CONFESSIONS AND CONSPIRACY

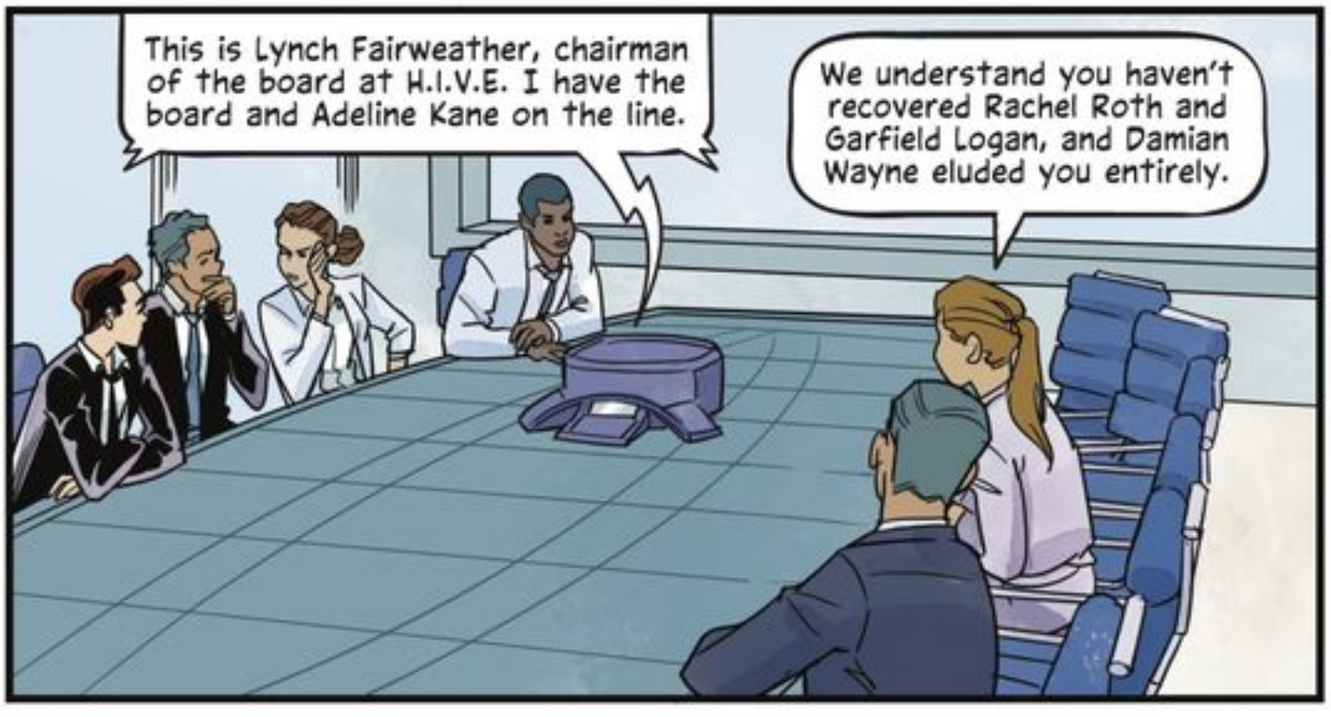
SANTA MONICA PIER
SANTA MONICA
ROSE HARBO
ORT FISHING
I don't want to put you on the spot, but I saw what your sister did to that guy in the store.
You did?

I've never seen her do anything like that before. I don't even understand how she did it.
The universe is full of incredible things we don't understand.
You really think what she did was incredible?
Don't you? I've never seen anything like it.
Would you believe me if I told you I think I might have unusual abilities, too?

Yes.
I believe anything is possible.
I've never done anything like what Kira did in the store, but I sort of started a fire with my hand.
For real? That's cool as hell.


And suddenly my reflexes are faster and I can speak Japanese. What do you think is causing it?
FERRIS WHEEL
It could be genetic. Let me do some research and see what I can come up with.
You really believe me?
Look where we are right now. A couple hundred years ago, nobody would've believed machines could carry us into the sky.
And I have some experience with the impossible.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
I'm busy.


This is Lynch Fairweather, chairman of the board at H.I.V.E. I have the board and Adeline Kane on the line.
We understand you haven't recovered Rachel Roth and Garfield Logan, and Damian Wayne eluded you entirely.

This is a setback, nothing more. We will get them.

We're not interested in any more excuses, Adeline. The fiascos involving these teens took place on your watch. You are no longer in charge.
Mr. Wilson, in light of your latest failure, your services are no longer needed.
Screw you!

H.I.V.E.
20:04
Lynch
What?
I apologize for the board. Though they disagree, I'm of the opinion that you're taking the fall for Adeline's mistakes.

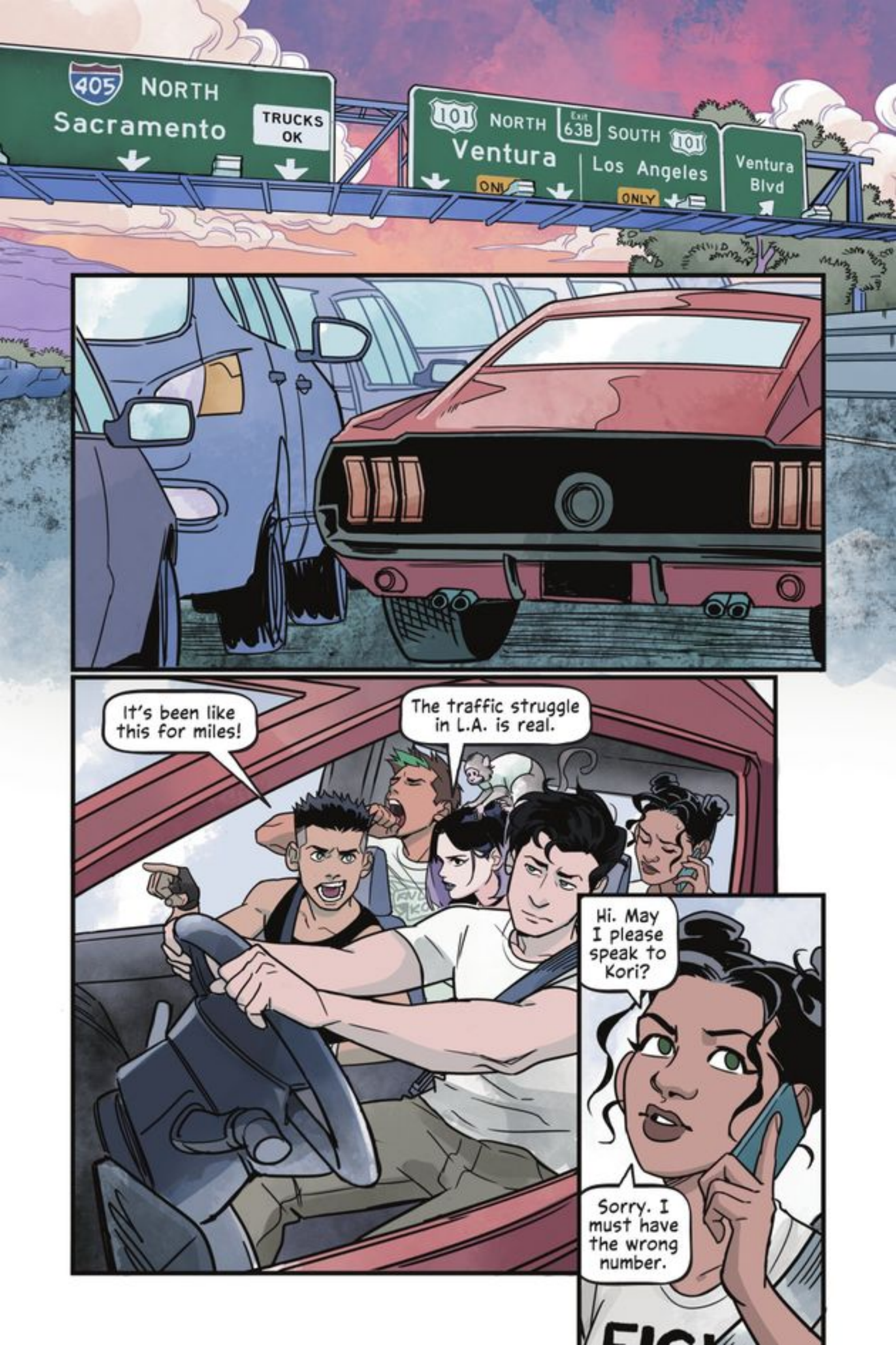
Agreed. She's the one who let the kids break out of the facility.

I'd like to personally provide you with the resources to find them. But this arrangement would have to stay between us.

Done.

I can't believe you didn't tell me about your powers! It didn't occur to you that the same thing might be happening to me?
Why would it? And I'm telling you now!
You didn't tell me! I saw you use them! And keep your voice down!
I already told Tate what's going on.
Without asking me? I shouldn't be surprised.
But now that you both know, Kori can join H.I.V.E., too.

What's H.I.V.E.?
It's a place where people like you two learn to use their powers.
There are other people with powers?
Of course.
We can take you to the training facility to see for yourself.


405 NORTH
Sacramento
TRUCKS OK
101 NORTH
Exit 63B
SOUTH 101
Ventura
Los Angeles
ONLY
Ventura Blvd
It's been like this for miles!
The traffic struggle in L.A. is real.
Hi. May I please speak to Kori?
Sorry. I must have the wrong number.

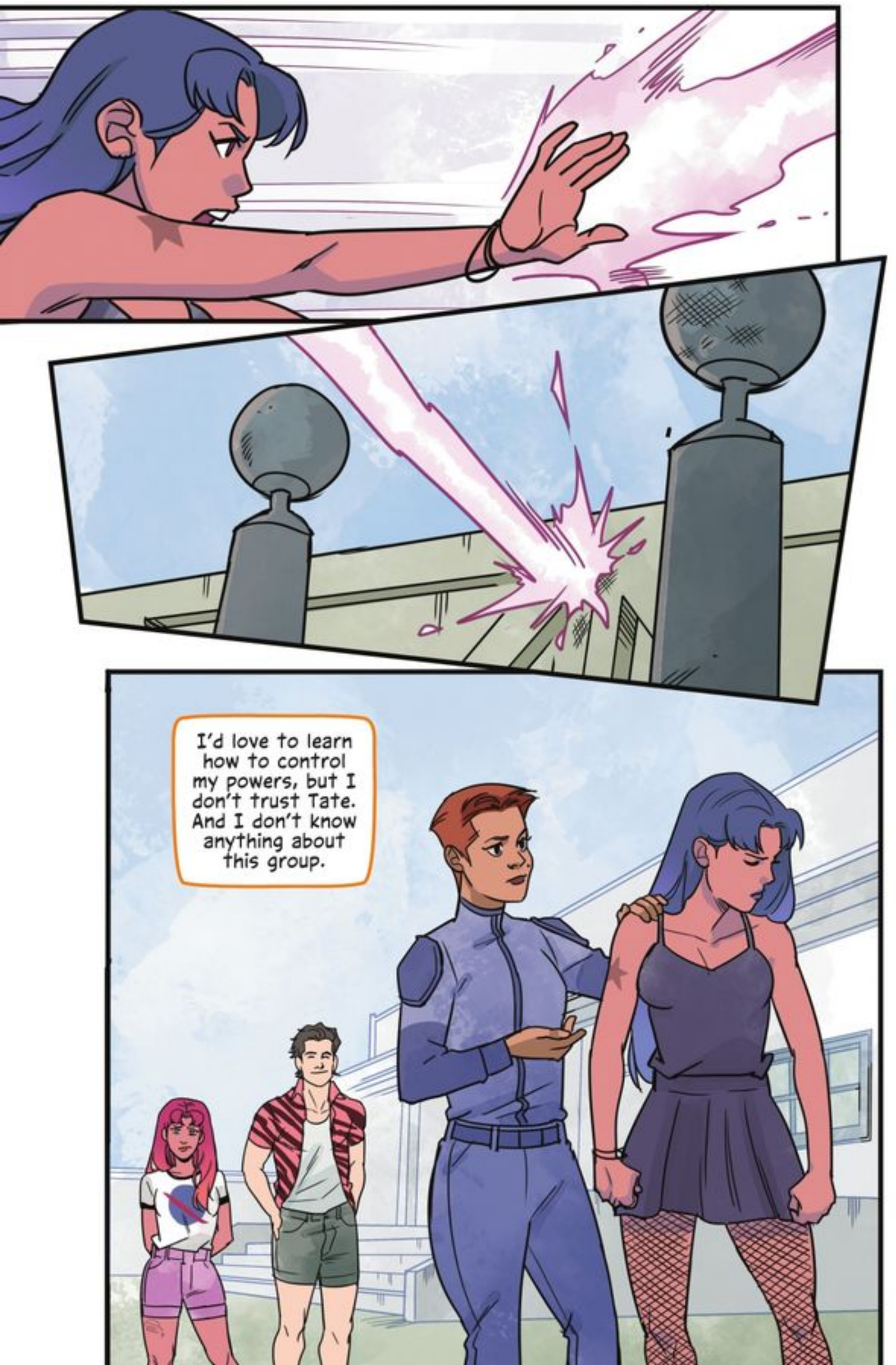
How many numbers have you called now?
Fourteen.
Is anyone else hungry? I'm *starving.*
You're always hungry.
KIN KONG
EEK!
KING

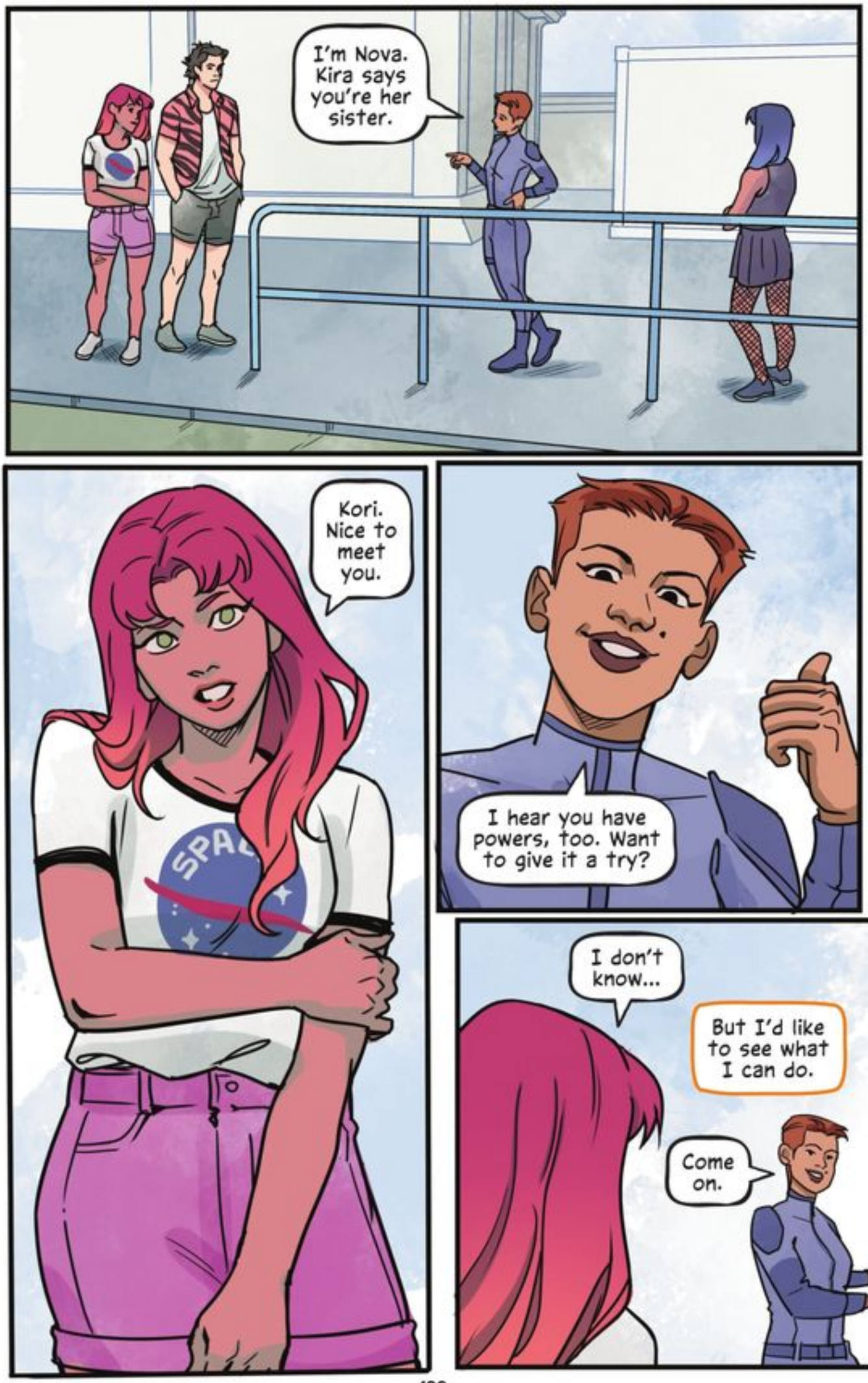
Try our Pie!
Mary's DINER
You kids sure were hungry. Can I get you anything else?
I'll take a veggie burger. L.A. has way better vegetarian options than Nashville.
Another chocolate shake, please.
And another order of fries.

I'm searching for houses owned by people with the last name Anders. Two of them aren't far from here.
Let's check them out.
What have we got to lose?
If it means sitting in traffic again, my mind.

CHAPTER 9: STRANGE DAYS
H.I.V.E. trains people like you and Kira so you'll be able to help others.
How can I trust anything Tate tells me?
Why haven't I ever heard anything about it? Something like that would be all over the internet.
H.I.V.E. does their work in secret, and they make sure everyone keeps a low profile.

You'd have someone like Nova to train you.
Incredible!

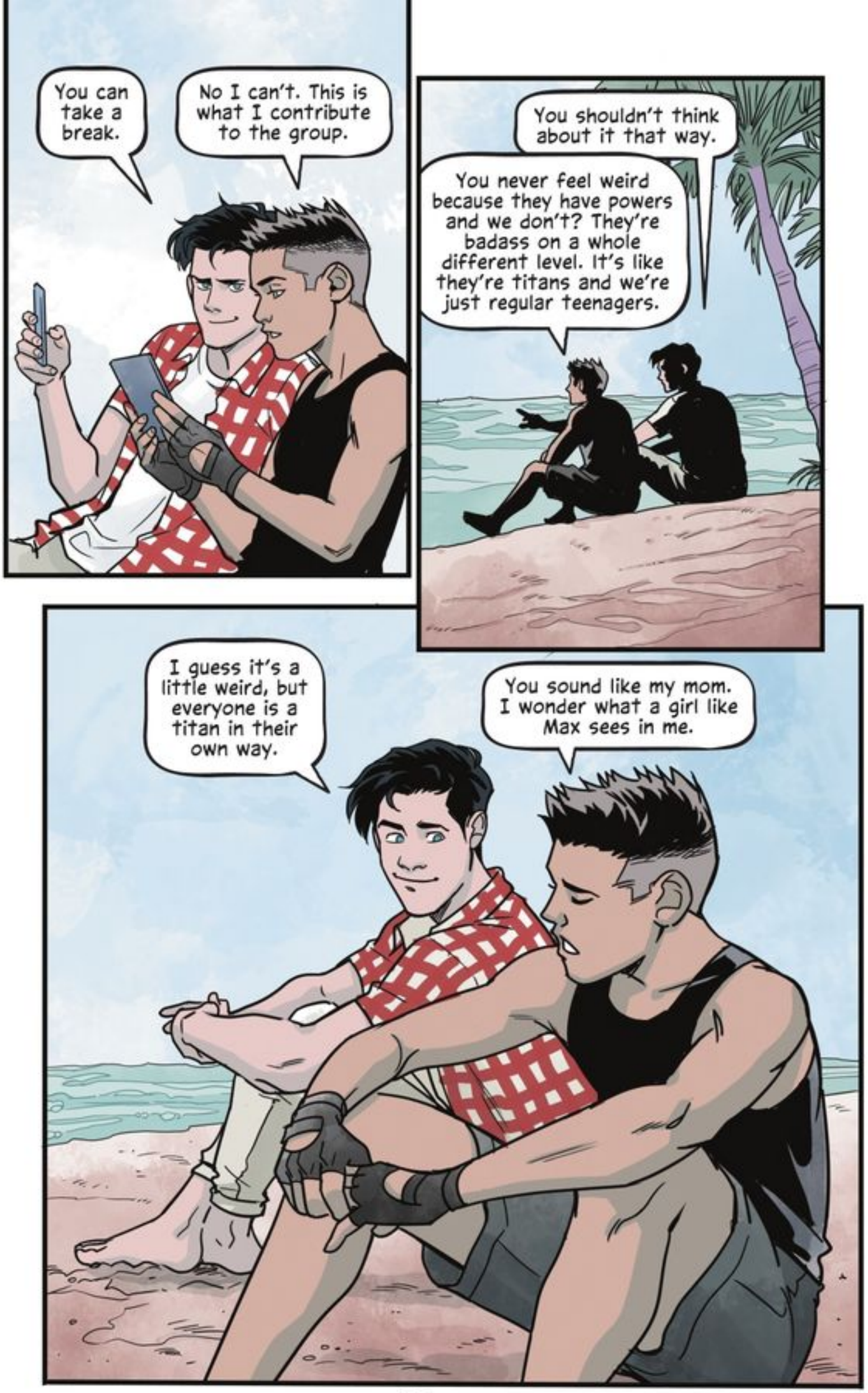

I'd love to learn how to control my powers, but I don't trust Tate. And I don't know anything about this group.


I'm Nova. Kira says you're her sister.
Kori. Nice to meet you.
I hear you have powers, too. Want to give it a try?
I don't know...
But I'd like to see what I can do.
Come on.

Focus on the target and think about something that makes you angry or scared.
SPACE

That's all my sister can do? I have nothing to be worried about.
I don't really know how they work.
My powers weren't that strong in the beginning, either.
It takes practice to learn how to wield them. I hope you'll come back so we can help.
Maybe.

Come on. We agreed to take a break.
You two have been at this all day.
We can't stop. We're close. I can feel it.
Suit yourselves.


You can take a break.
No I can't. This is what I contribute to the group.
You shouldn't think about it that way.
You never feel weird because they have powers and we don't? They're badass on a whole different level. It's like they're titans and we're just regular teenagers.
I guess it's a little weird, but everyone is a titan in their own way.
You sound like my mom. I wonder what a girl like Max sees in me.

How long are you going to lie there floating?
Can't a girl relax?
Concentrate. You can do it.

You actually saw other kids with powers training?
Yep. Nova, the girl working with my sister, said they're doing it so they can help other people—whatever that means.
EDGE
Pharmaceuticals
たいやき
That's a vague explanation. And I don't trust any organization Tate is mixed up with.
I agree. How do we learn more about H.I.V.E.?
There's nothing online, except some references to experimental research. Let's go back to Edge. I can do a more extensive search there.
たいやき

I'm surprised Edge is open this late.
EDGE
Pharmaceutica
Scientists and researchers have twenty-four-hour access. My dad is an engineer and he always says research never sleeps.
Where are we?
It's called the hub. The most powerful computers in the building are housed here. Let's see what I can find out about H.I.V.E.
Nothing. Weird. I'll have to get the info from government websites.
You're a hacker?
Not exactly.

I should've told you this the other night...
You're not the only one with unusual abilities.
What do you mean?
PING
How did you do that? You're not even touching the keyboard.
CENTRAL INTELLIGENC
AGENCY
DEPARTM
OF DEFEN
SERNAME
ASSWORD

I don't need to.
I can interface with computers, or any type of tech.
Amazing.
You don't think I'm a freak?
That would mean I'm one too.
This could take a while, but I'll keep working on it tomorrow and I'll let you know what I find.

What are you doing in my room?
Waiting for you.
Get up. You're leaving crumbs all over my bed.
What do you want?
CHIPS
Are you going to train with H.I.V.E.?
I haven't decided, and I don't have enough spoons for this conversation tonight. I'm exhausted.

What's there to decide? They'll help you learn how to use your powers.
How much do you really know about H.I.V.E.?
I saw it for myself. Lynch and Tate took me there. What else do I need to know?
A lot! You can't just do whatever Tate tells you!
Jealous isn't a good look on you.
I'm not jealous!

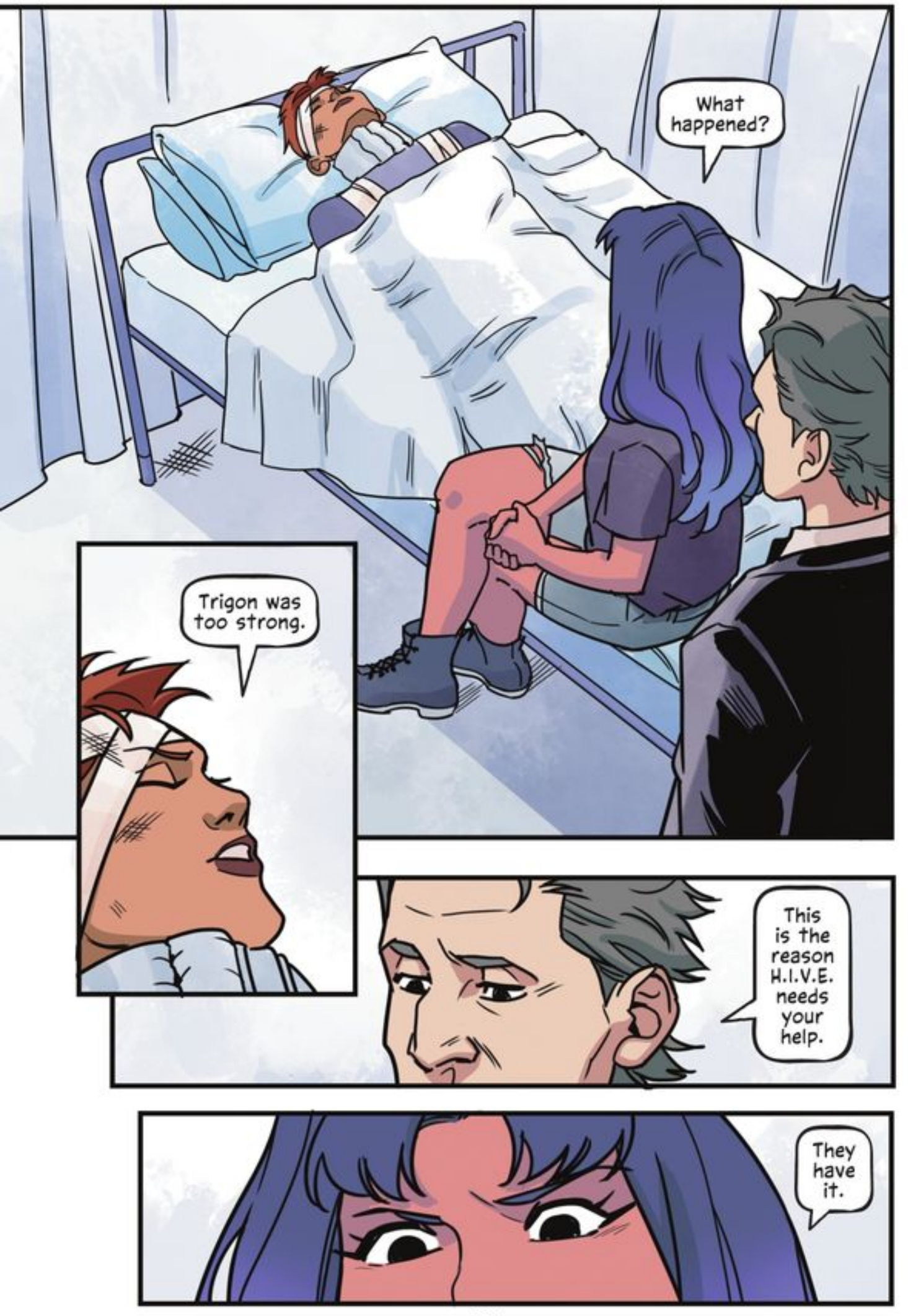
CHAPTER 10: DADDY ISSUES
Where are you, daughter? You cannot hide from me.
Where is Raven? Bring her to me!

Where is she?
It's still coming!

Where is my daughter?
Go back to hell—or wherever you came from!

Then you are of no use to me.
I can help you find her.

THE NEXT DAY
It looks like a tornado hit.
Not a tornado... *Trigon.* The creature I told you about.
What kind of creature could've done this?
Oh my god!

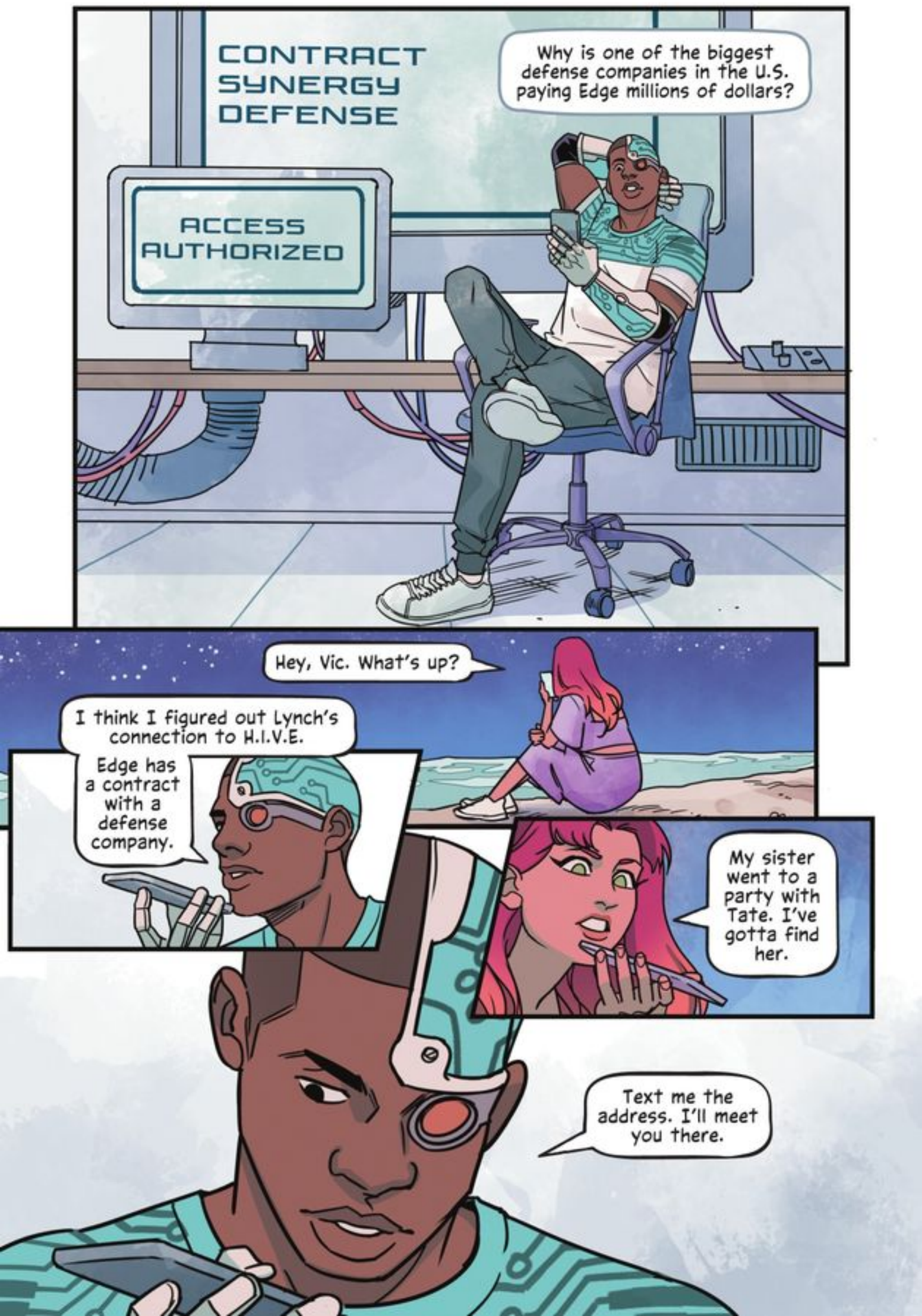

What happened?
Trigon was too strong.
This is the reason H.I.V.E. needs your help.
They have it.

The first address was a bust. Ten bucks says this one is, too.
You don't have ten bucks.
Hi. We're looking for Kori Anders.
She's not here.
Do you know where she is?
Nice try. You could be serial killers.

Would a serial killer have a pet monkey?
KING KONG
Ryan, we're leaving for Lynch's in five minutes.
She's at the Sand and Sky Club.
8

There she is!
I've been looking for you. Why were you late for work today?
The H.I.V.E. training facility was attacked last night and they needed me.
By who?
Not who... *what.*
A creature attacked it. Nova has been training me to take it down, but I wasn't there.

Are you listening to yourself? You can't fight a creature...whatever that means!
And Tate is okay with this? That should tell you something!
You can't stand the fact that my powers are stronger than yours. That H.I.V.E. needs me!
Why do you always think I'm jealous? All I've ever done is support you. I'm just worried.
Don't be. I'm going to wait for my hot boyfriend to pick me up and we're going to the party at Asher's, and I'm gonna forget about this conversation.
ladie
locke
How can she think I'm jealous? She's my best friend. At least, I thought she was.

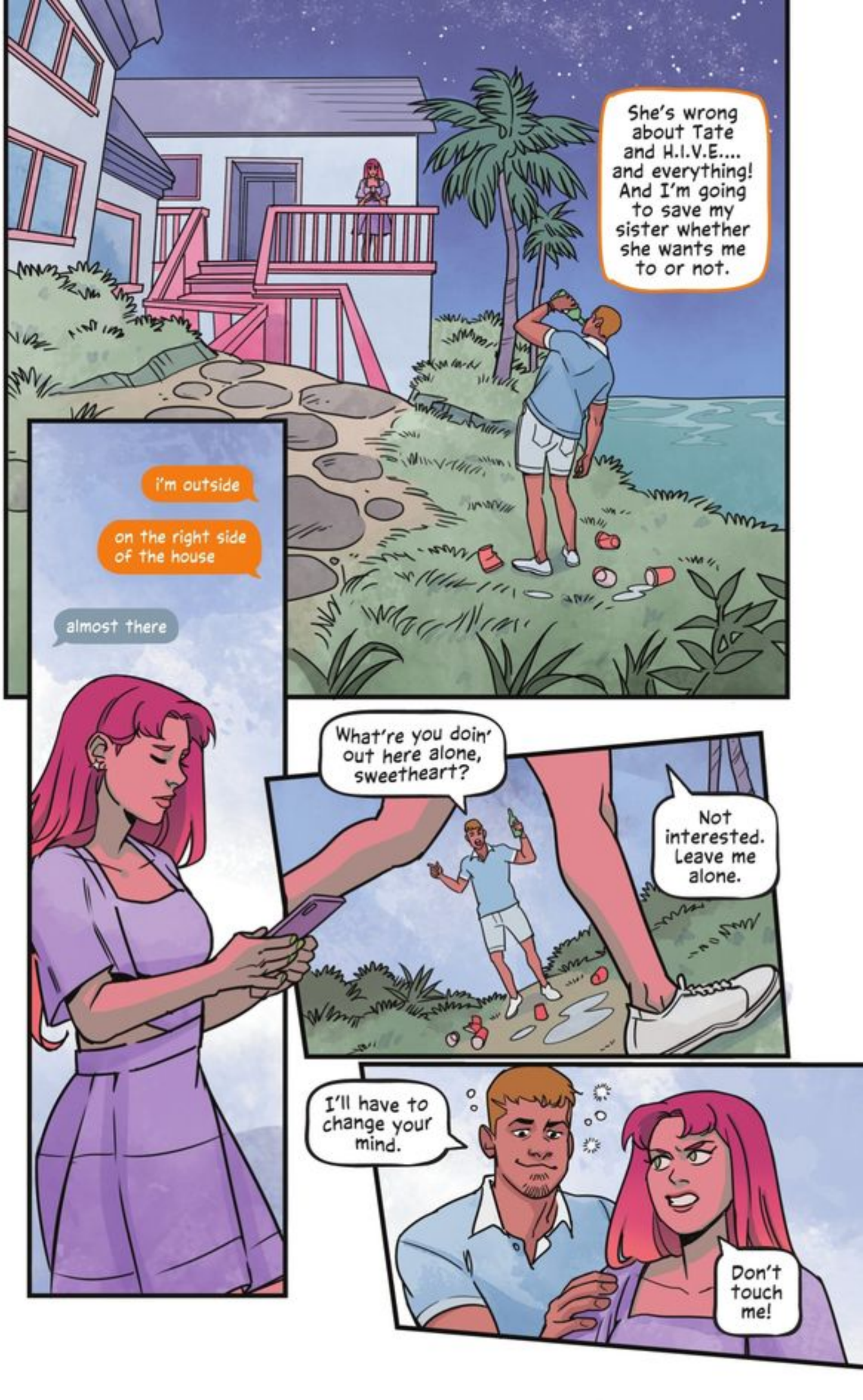

CONTRACT SYNERGY DEFENSE
ACCESS AUTHORIZED
Why is one of the biggest defense companies in the U.S. paying Edge millions of dollars?
Hey, Vic. What's up?
I think I figured out Lynch's connection to H.I.V.E.
Edge has a contract with a defense company.
My sister went to a party with Tate. I've gotta find her.
Text me the address. I'll meet you there.

nd & sky
Omni Cab
Good evening. Can I get your last name and membership number?
We're not members. We're just meeting a friend.
Members only. Sorry. But you can park in the lot and call your friend and ask them to sign you in.

How are we gonna get inside?
Plan B.
Hey. Do you work here? I'm looking for Kori Anders. Her brother said she was working tonight.
She was, but she already left. She's probably at the party we're on our way to now.
Give me your number and I'll text you the address.
They think she's at a party. I've got the address.
Nice!

My sister doesn't get to blow me off.
Kira!
What's wrong with you? Maybe you want to yell a little louder so everyone can hear you!
I don't care!
You don't get to accuse me of being jealous—which I'm not, for the record—when I'm trying to protect you!

There's nothing to protect me from! You've invented this conspiracy theory to make yourself feel important because your powers are useless!
I don't care about your powers! And you are the definition of self-important!
That's why it's so easy for Tate and Lynch to manipulate you!
You're the only person trying to manipulate me! You can't stand to see Mom and I focused on someone other than you!
You know that's not true.
Whatever you want to tell yourself.


She's wrong about Tate and H.I.V.E.... and everything! And I'm going to save my sister whether she wants me to or not.
i'm outside
on the right side of the house
almost there
What're you doin' out here alone, sweetheart?
Not interested. Leave me alone.
I'll have to change your mind.
Don't touch me!

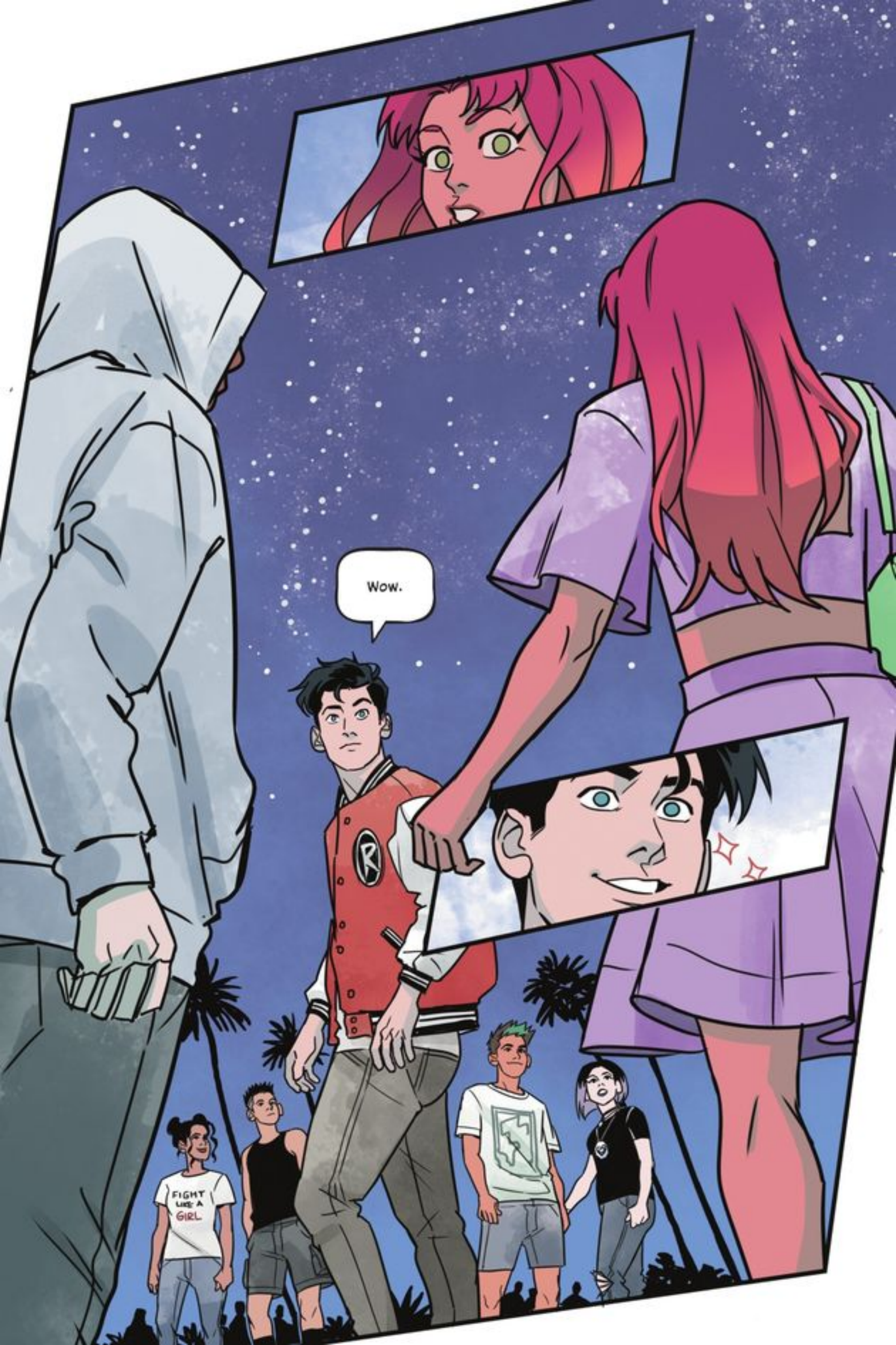
I'm happy where I am.
Get off me!
Ahhhh!

Help!
Dude! Stop, drop, and roll!
What did I do?

CHAPTER 11: POWER SHIFT
Whoa. I've never seen a house this big.
The word you're looking for is *excessive.*
Yeah. There are tons of unhoused people in L.A., while the wealthy live like this.
EEK!
Sorry.
No problem.

What's wrong?
Something happened.
I used my powers. It— it was an accident.
Let's get out of here.

Hey. Have you seen Kori?
She's right there.
Kori!

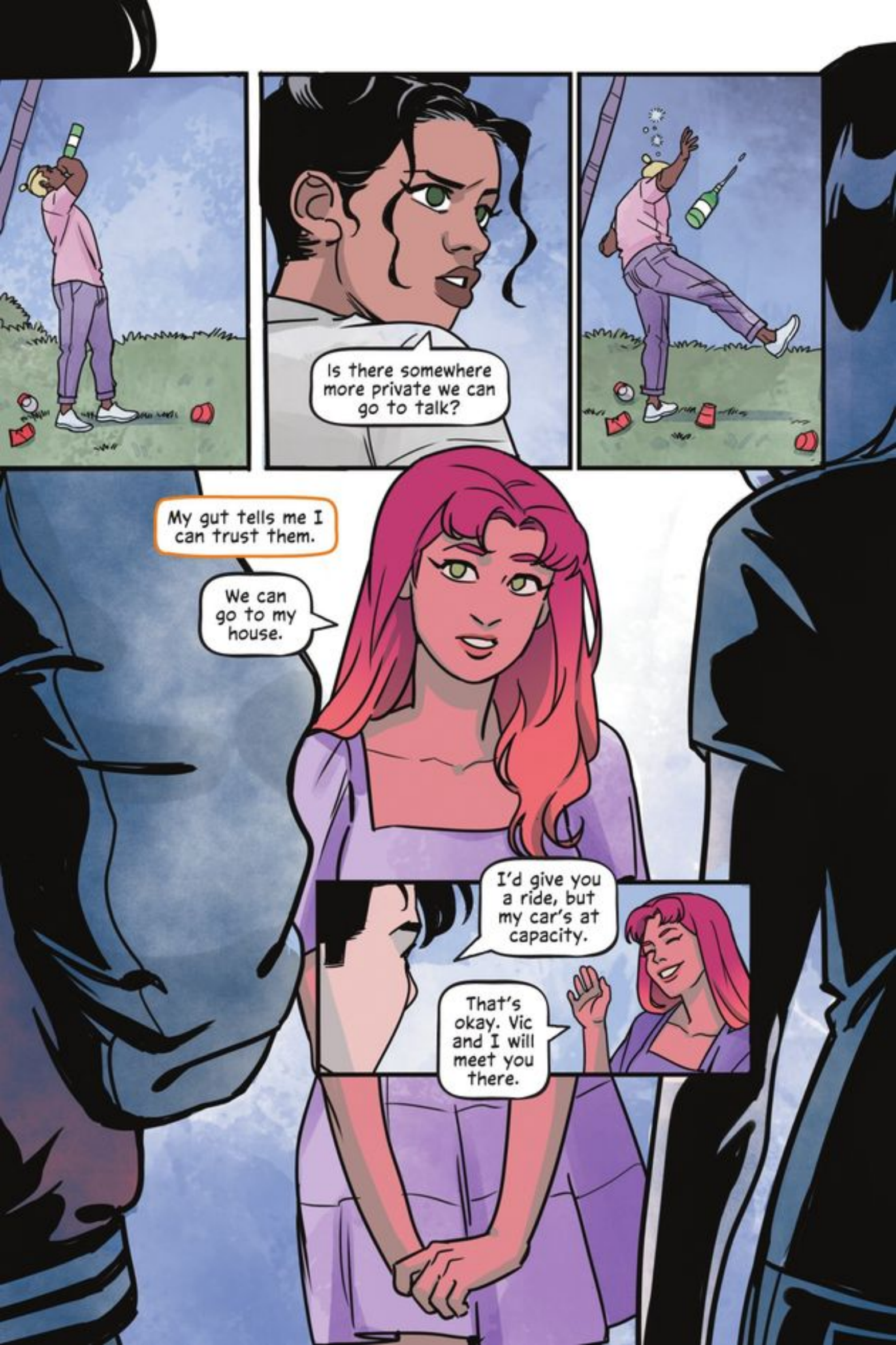

Wow.
FIGHT LIKE A GIRL

Hi. I'm Dick.
Say something! What do you say to a guy with such a gorgeous smile?
Hi.

I'm Raven. You're Kori, right?
Yeah.
This might be hard to believe, but someone is looking for you and we came to warn you.
Who?
His name is Slade Wilson and he's dangerous.
I think you've got the wrong person. I don't know anyone by that name.

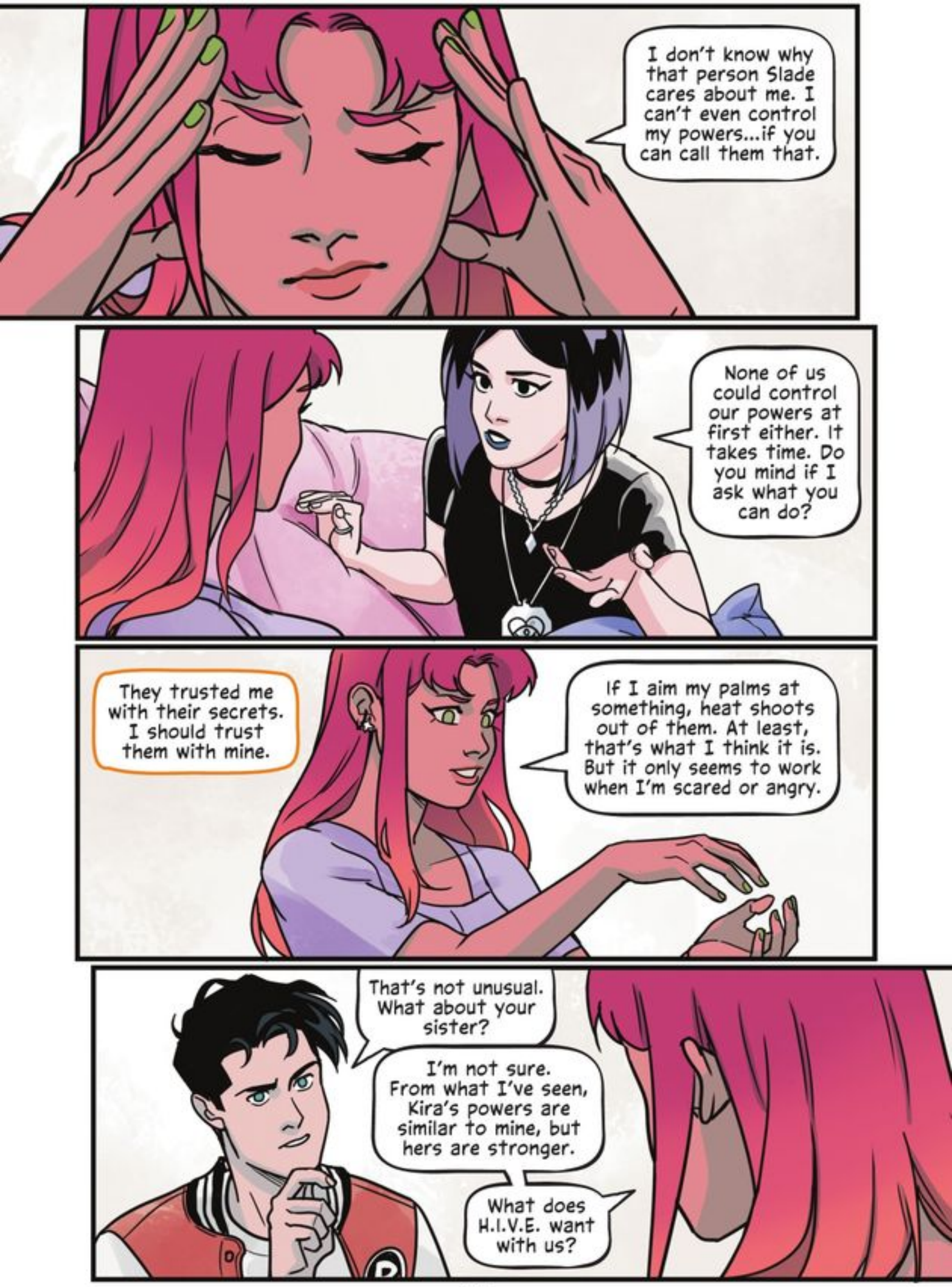
RACHEL ROTH—NEW ORLEANS
DAMIAN WAYNE—GOTHAM CITY
GARFIELD LOGAN—EDENTOWN
KORI ANDERS—LOS ANGELES
You wouldn't, but Slade knows who you are. He works for a group called H.I.V.E.
We found your name on a list of people he's trying to locate and, trust us, you don't want him to find you.
We were right about H.I.V.E.
Wish I could say I'm surprised.
Sounds like you've dealt with them before.
My soon-to-be stepfather took me to a H.I.V.E. training facility once.
My sister is training with them and they wanted me to start, but I never went back.
So is your sister like you? Does she have... you know.

Umm...
You don't know them, Kori.
It's okay. We're *like* you.
How did you know Kori was here, anyway?
We went by her house and her little brother told us where she worked. Her coworkers over there said she might be here.


Is there somewhere more private we can go to talk?
My gut tells me I can trust them.
We can go to my house.
I'd give you a ride, but my car's at capacity.
That's okay. Vic and I will meet you there.

Omni Cab
Kira's still not responding to my texts.
Are you surprised? By the way, I'm staying at your house until your mom comes home. Those people are strangers.
Then you'll be staying over. She rarely comes home from Lynch's anymore. My brother, Ryan, already has a room at his house.
I'm Vic.
Damian.
Max, and that's Gar and his monkey, Kong. You already met Raven.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER
So you all have powers?
I can raise the dead and channel their energy. My mom calls me Soulstorm when I do it because it's sort of like a ghost hurricane. Raven's powers are a lot cooler than mine.
FIGHT LIKE A GIRL
She means a lot more awkward.
I can sense how other people are feeling, harness and redirect energy, and some other stuff.
Gar is the one with cool powers. He can transform into animals.
Seriously? That's amazing. What about Dick and Damian?
They don't really—
We have enhanced speed and reflexes and superior hand-to-hand combat skills.
FIGHT LIKE A GIRL

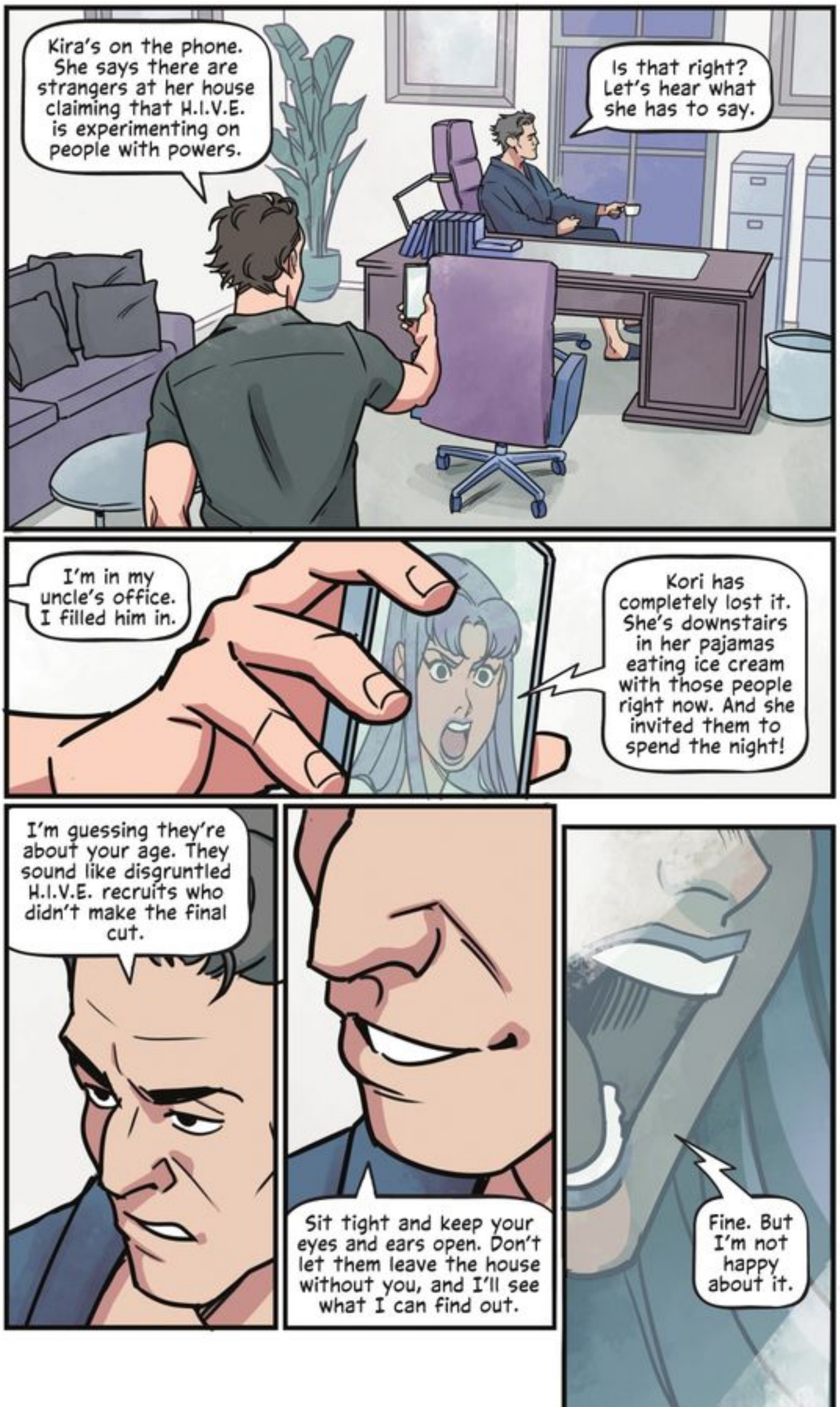

I don't know why that person Slade cares about me. I can't even control my powers...if you can call them that.
None of us could control our powers at first either. It takes time. Do you mind if I ask what you can do?
They trusted me with their secrets. I should trust them with mine.
If I aim my palms at something, heat shoots out of them. At least, that's what I think it is. But it only seems to work when I'm scared or angry.
That's not unusual. What about your sister?
I'm not sure. From what I've seen, Kira's powers are similar to mine, but hers are stronger.
What does H.I.V.E. want with us?

We think they want to use us as weapons for the military.
Like super-soldiers. We can show you all the info we've found so far.
You show me yours, and I'll show you mine.
We should pick this up again tomorrow. We still have to find a motel.
You shouldn't stay here, Kori. We have no idea how close Slade is, or if he figured out where you live.
Maybe you can stay at your boyfriend's place?
I don't have a boyfriend, and I can't leave without my sister. She has no idea what's happening. This Slade person might be looking for her, too.
Why don't you all crash here until she comes back?
Not a bad idea. Slade can't take on seven of us.
Okay.

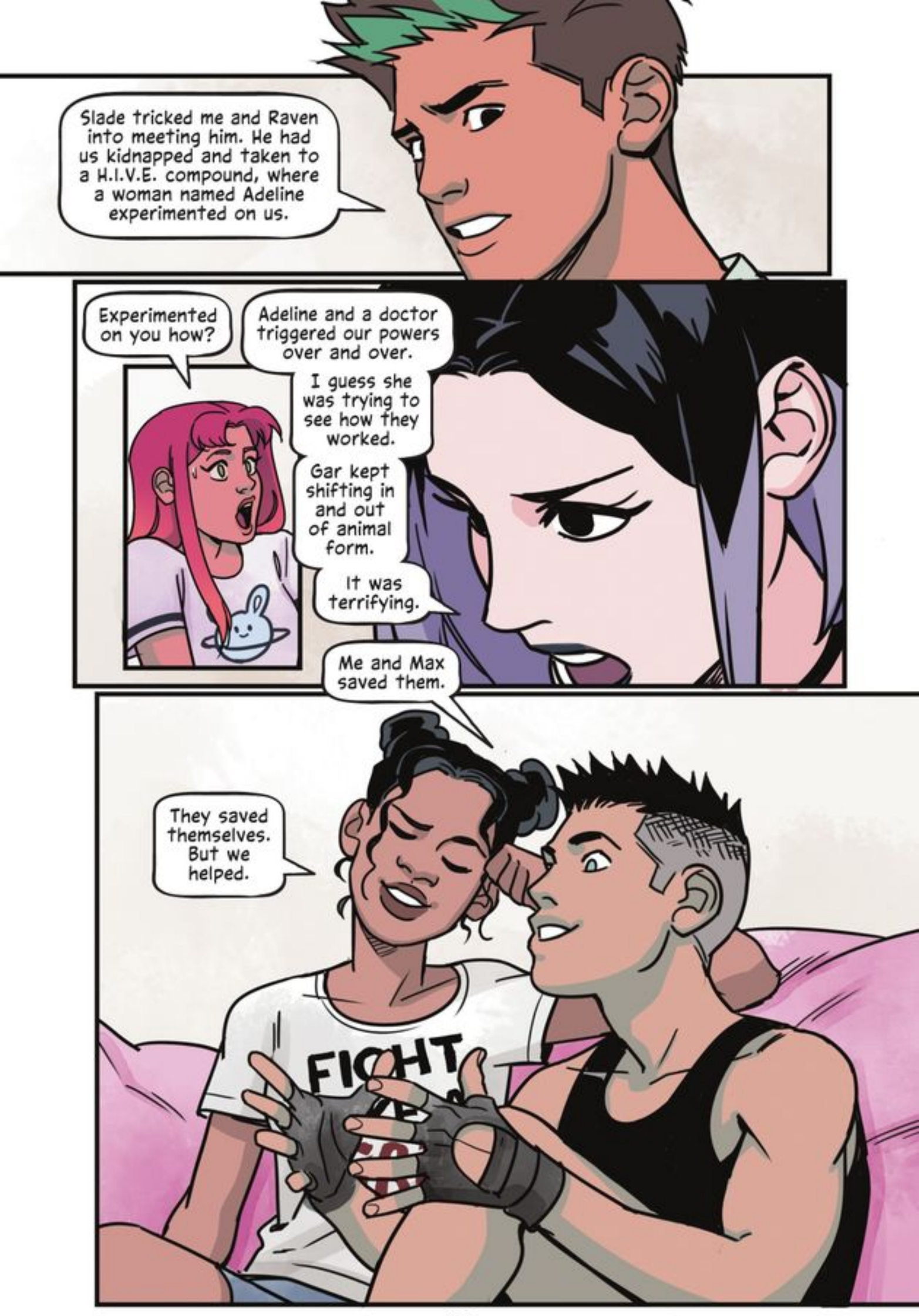
I'll get some pillows and blankets.
I'll help.
Me too.
You're into space?
Yeah. I'm an astronomy major. I love the stars.
I'm a mechanical engineer. I mean, I'm double-majoring in mechanical engineering and computer science.
This guy's already got it bad for Kori.

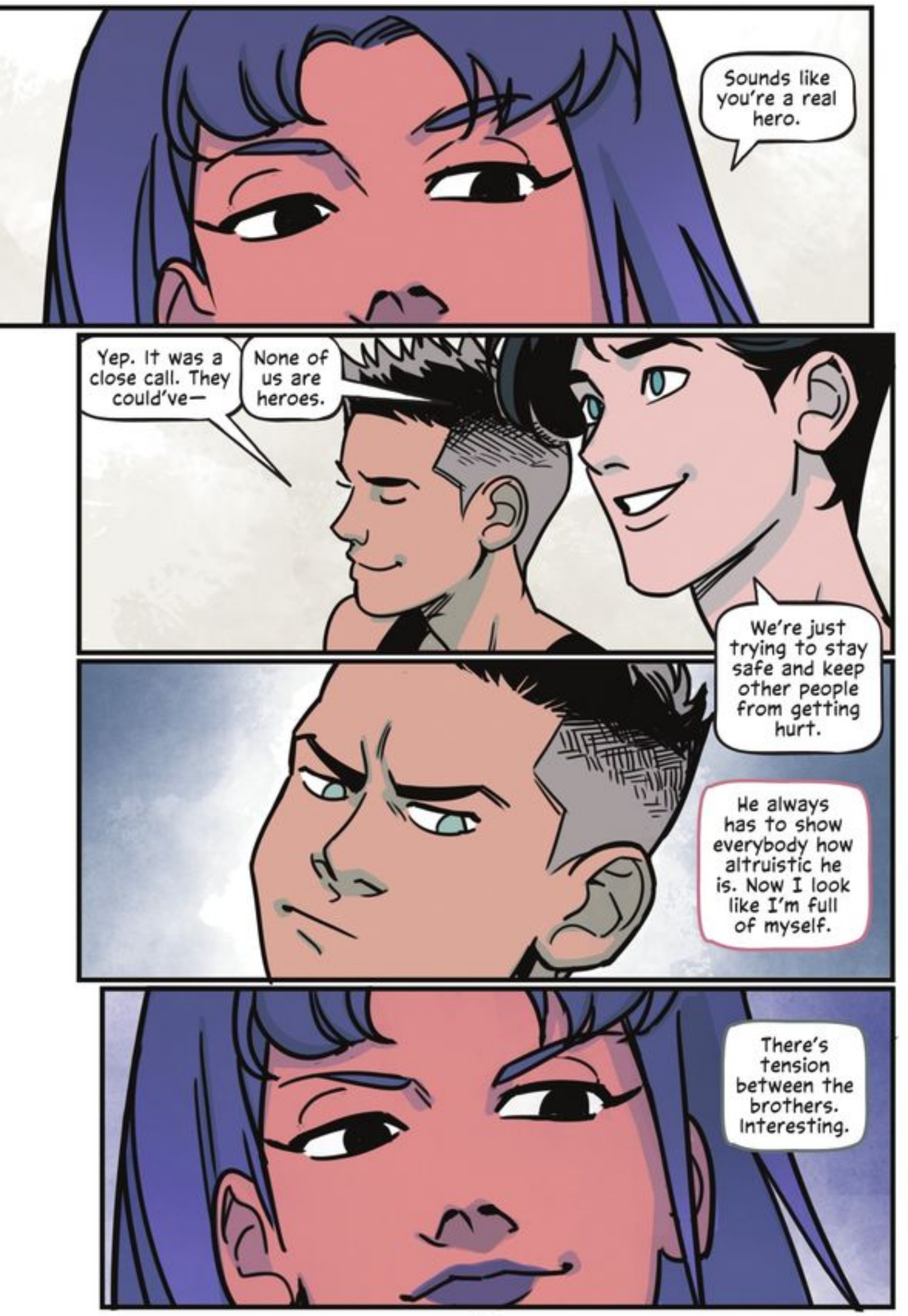
Who are all these people?
AN HOUR LATER
Why didn't you answer my texts, Kira? I've been trying to get in touch with you!
I'm here now. What's the emergency? And who are those people?
That's Dick.
Damian.
Raven.
Gar.
Max and Kong.
And you know Vic.
They've been looking for me. They know about H.I.V.E., and the organization isn't what you think.
H.I.V.E. is experimenting on teens like us against their will. I know firsthand because I was one of them.
Me too.
So whatever you heard about H.I.V.E. is a lie.
NOT IN THE

Excuse us. I need to talk to my sister alone for a minute.
What's wrong with you? You invited a bunch of strangers—who are *clearly* conspiracy theorists—into the house, at midnight, for a slumber party?
They're not conspiracy theorists! They have powers just like us and they came here to warn me that a dangerous man named Slade is looking for me. He works for H.I.V.E.
Enough! Are you listening to yourself? I honestly hope you're making this up and you don't actually believe it, because you sound delusional.
It's true! If you would just listen to what they have to say, you'd realize it!
Why would I trust strangers over my boyfriend, Nova, and Lynch? I'm going up to my room. Don't follow me!


Kira's on the phone. She says there are strangers at her house claiming that H.I.V.E. is experimenting on people with powers.
Is that right? Let's hear what she has to say.
I'm in my uncle's office. I filled him in.
Kori has completely lost it. She's downstairs in her pajamas eating ice cream with those people right now. And she invited them to spend the night!
I'm guessing they're about your age. They sound like disgruntled H.I.V.E. recruits who didn't make the final cut.
Sit tight and keep your eyes and ears open. Don't let them leave the house without you, and I'll see what I can find out.
Fine. But I'm not happy about it.

An interesting development. I couldn't have orchestrated the situation any better myself.
You know who they are?
I have my suspicions.
Slade, where are you?
It seems I've located those missing items you've been looking for.
Is that so? I haven't hit California yet. Can you hold on to them until I get there?
That won't be a problem. I have someone keeping an eye on them. I'm texting you the address now.


Slade tricked me and Raven into meeting him. He had us kidnapped and taken to a H.I.V.E. compound, where a woman named Adeline experimented on us.
Experimented on you how?
Adeline and a doctor triggered our powers over and over.
I guess she was trying to see how they worked.
Gar kept shifting in and out of animal form.
It was terrifying.
Me and Max saved them.
They saved themselves. But we helped.
FIGHT


Sounds like you're a real hero.
Yep. It was a close call. They could've—
None of us are heroes.
We're just trying to stay safe and keep other people from getting hurt.
He always has to show everybody how altruistic he is. Now I look like I'm full of myself.
There's tension between the brothers. Interesting.

Can you really figure out where Slade is?
Of course we can.
THE NEXT DAY
Maybe. If he hasn't switched cars and the Wayne Industries tech can pick him up on traffic cams.
Overpromising doesn't help anyone.
Stop telling me what to do!
PIZZA
Just worry about yourself.
Damian is the weak link of the group.

My sister is the same way. She thinks she's always right. Half the time she won't even hear me out.
Like last night—I tried to tell her I've never heard of anyone named Slade or about a H.I.V.E. facility in Nashville, but she wouldn't listen.
How would you know?
I'm in the H.I.V.E. training program here for people like us. Nobody locked me up or experimented on me, or anyone else there.
I'm thinking Slade and the people in Nashville must be a group that went rogue.
Maybe. There's no way to know for sure.
If we could convince them to check out the training facility, they'd see for themselves.
I doubt they'd agree to that. Dick sure wouldn't.
If that's true and he's wrong about the program, he'd look like a fool.
What if she's right? Checking it out would be smart.

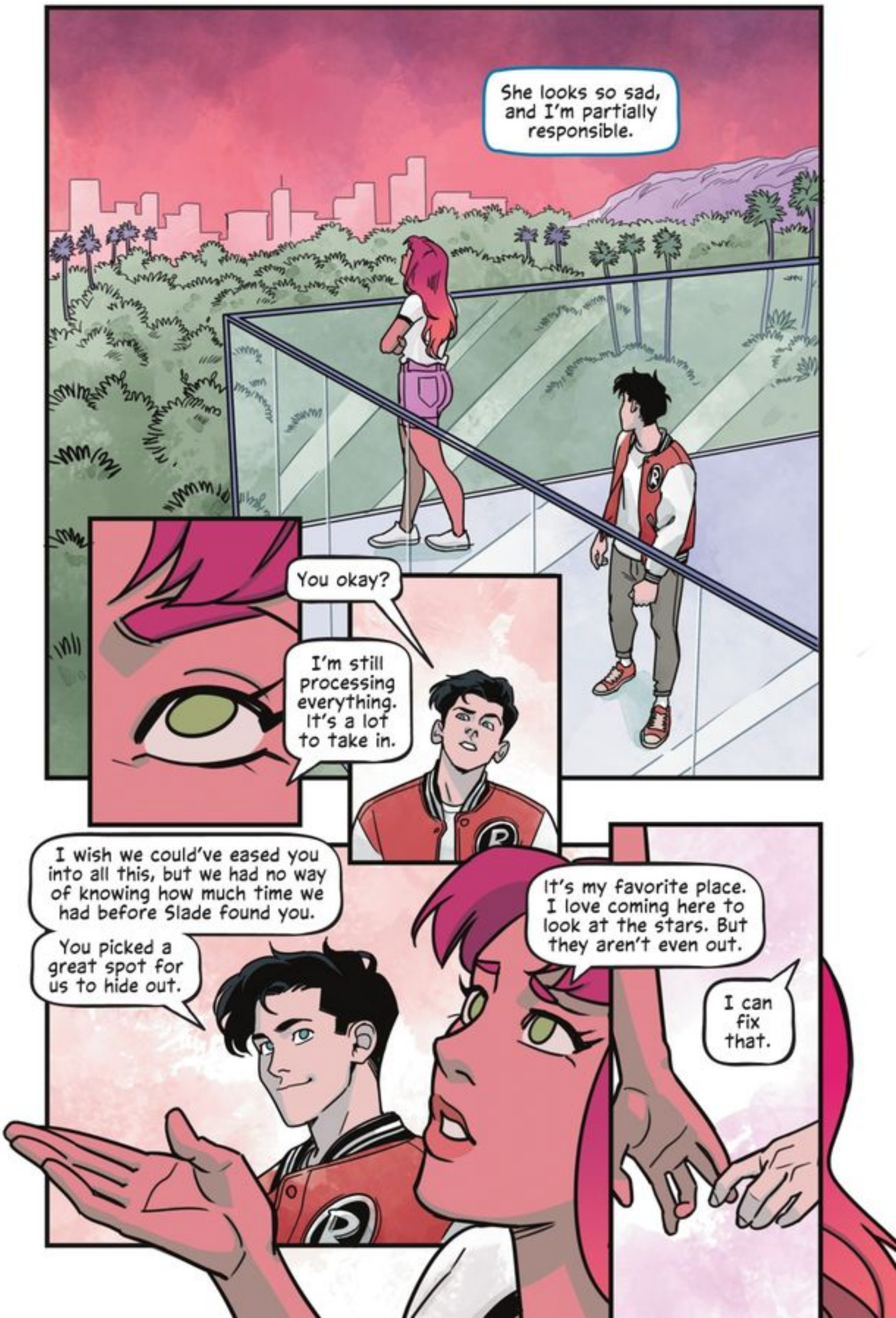
LATER
Yeah, they're still here.
How long did your uncle say it would take this Slade person to get here?
How could she go behind my back and rat them out?
I'm jumping in the shower. I'll see you soon.
I won't be here when she gets out.

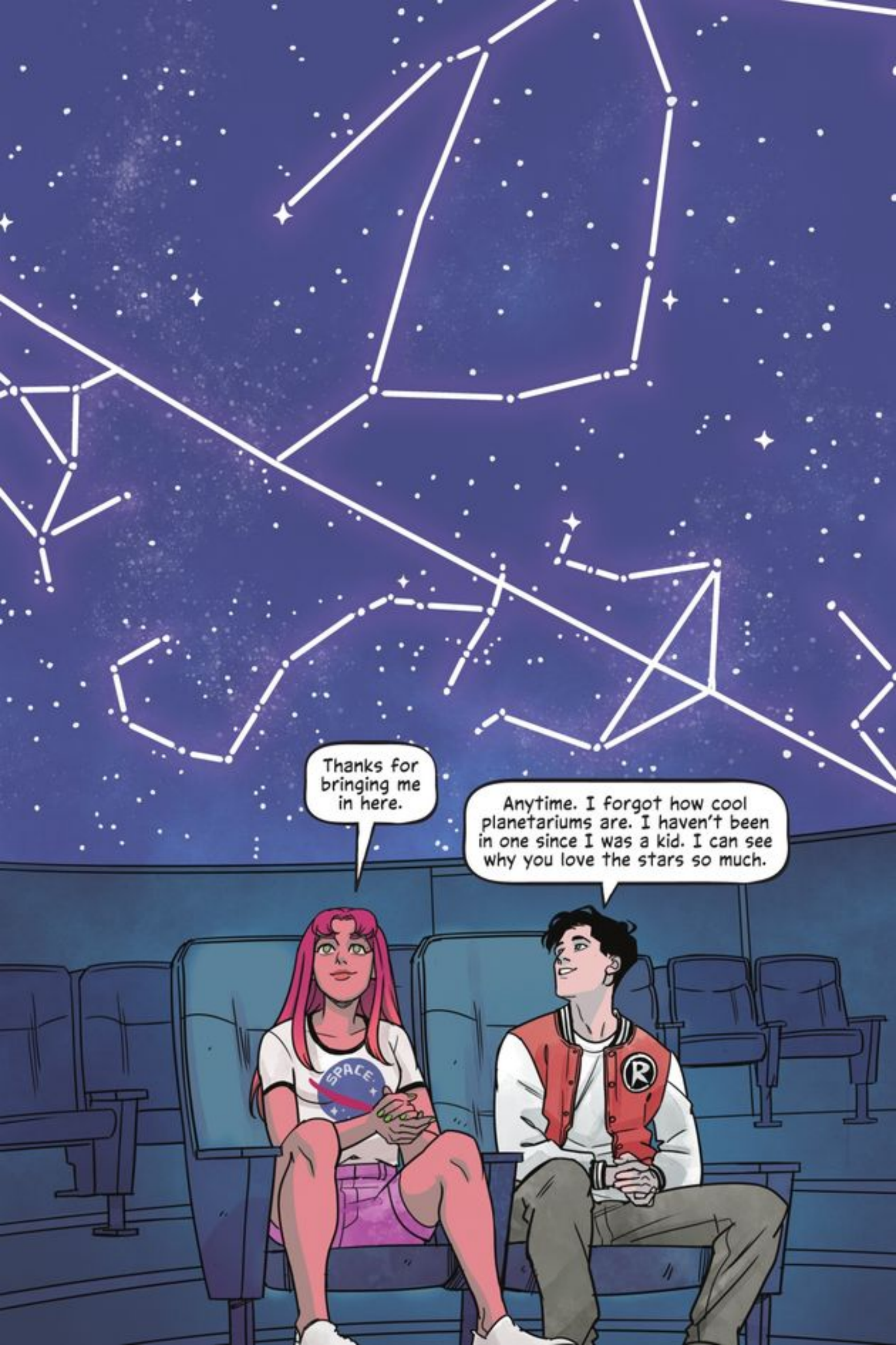
We need to leave. My sister told Lynch you're here, and Slade is on his way.
How much time do we have?
No idea.
What about your sister?
I never thought I'd say this, but I can't trust her. We should take off before she gets out of the shower.

Where should we go?
When Slade realizes we're not at Kori's, he'll think we're holed up in a hotel room or somewhere secluded, planning our next move. So we should do the opposite and go to a public place.

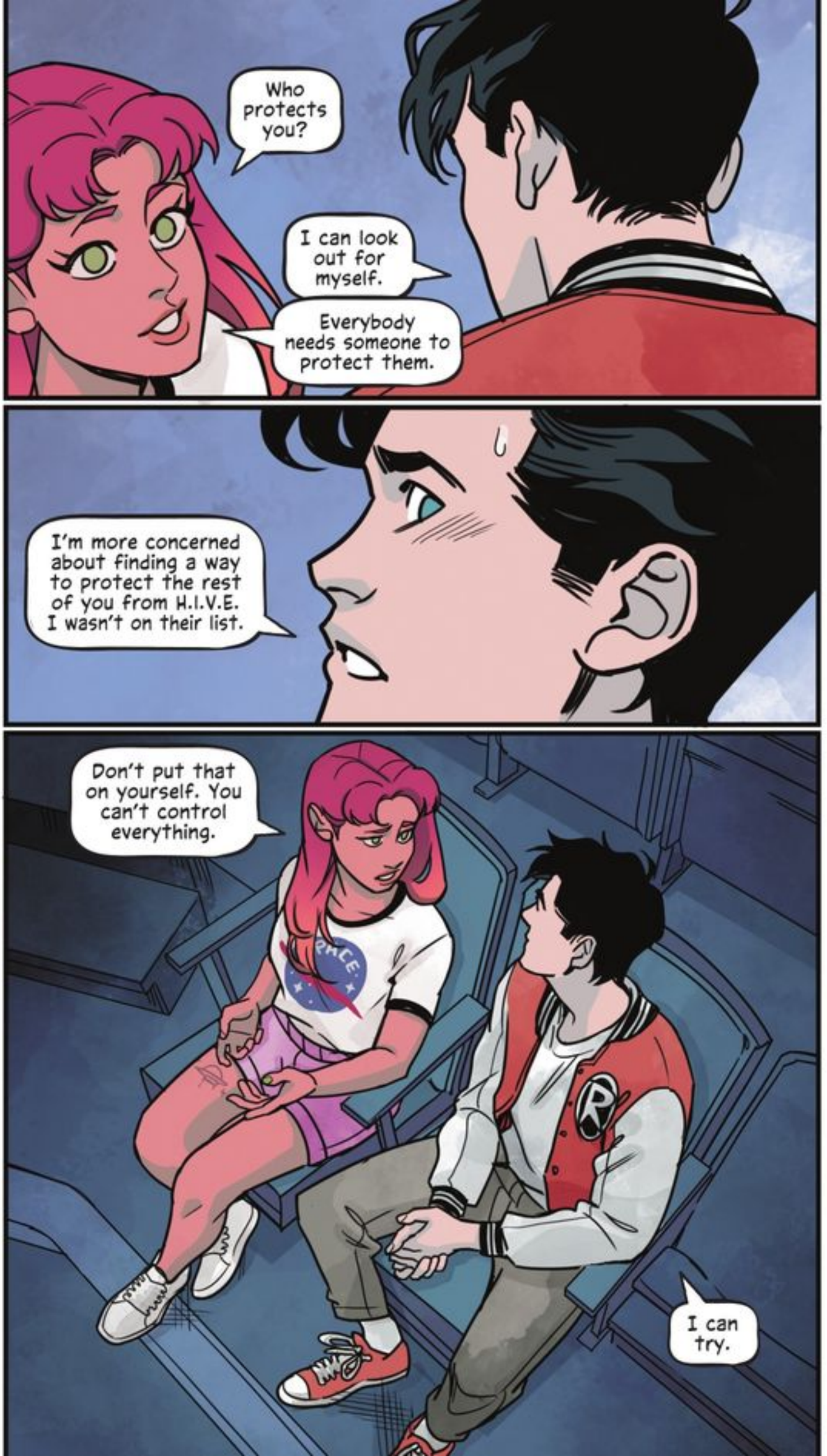
CHAPTER 12: THE MAP OF OUR STARS

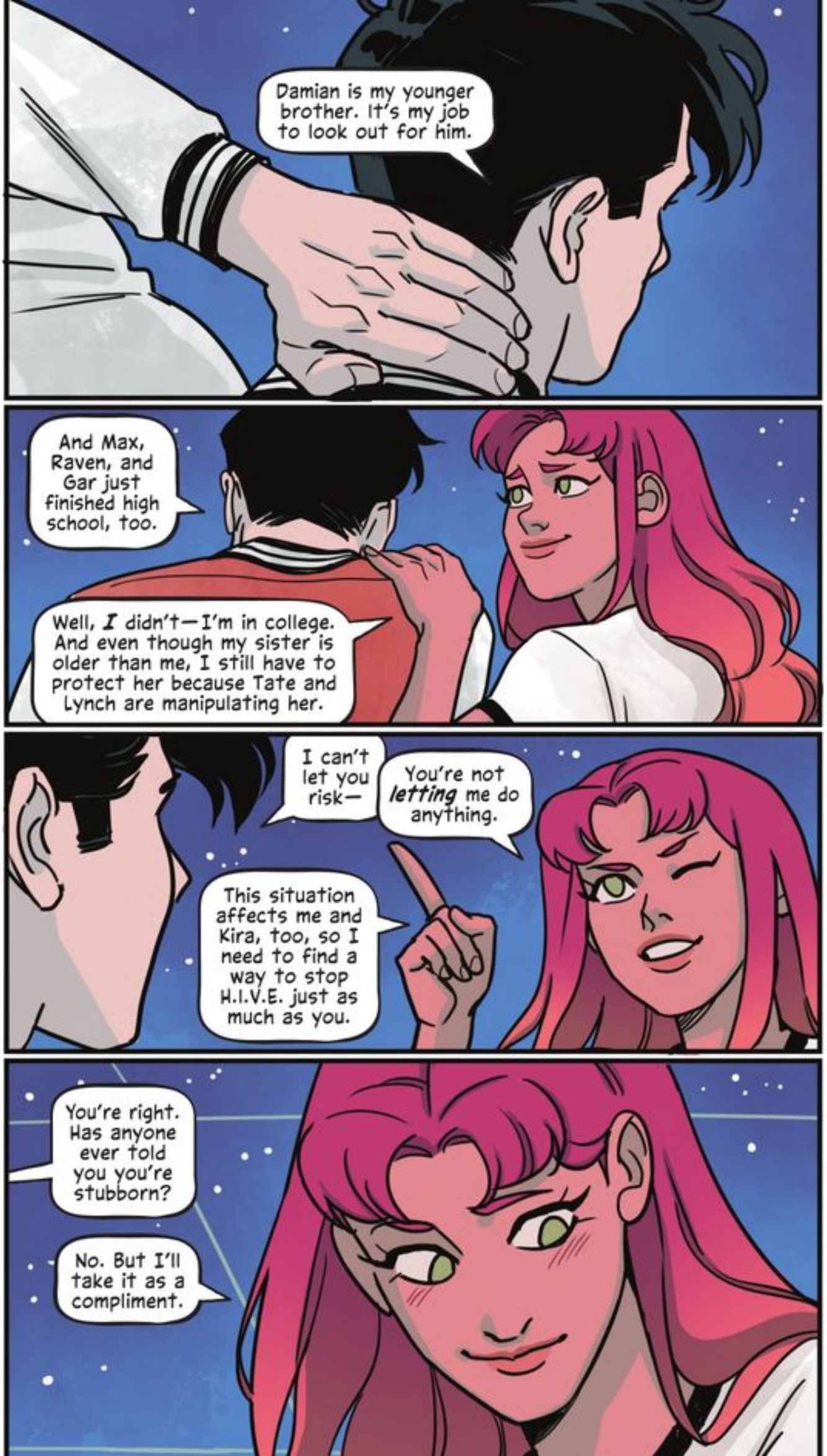
GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY
I don't understand why my sister would betray me. We used to be so close.
It's not about you. I bet her boyfriend is feeding her lies about H.I.V.E. and all of us. Maybe she was trying to protect you.
I need a few minutes alone.
We get it.

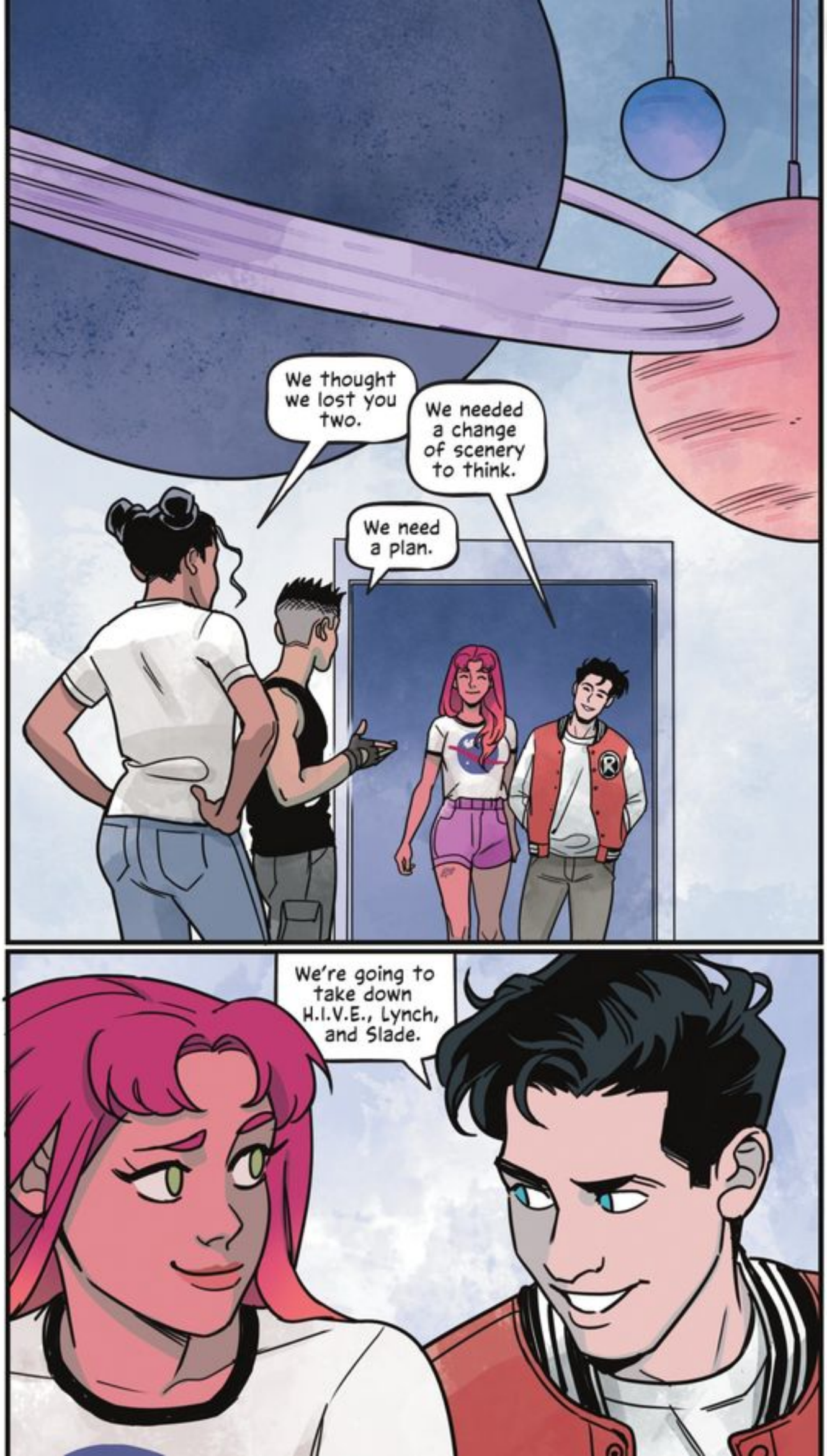

She looks so sad, and I'm partially responsible.
You okay?
I'm still processing everything. It's a lot to take in.
I wish we could've eased you into all this, but we had no way of knowing how much time we had before Slade found you.
You picked a great spot for us to hide out.
It's my favorite place. I love coming here to look at the stars. But they aren't even out.
I can fix that.


Thanks for bringing me in here.
Anytime. I forgot how cool planetariums are. I haven't been in one since I was a kid. I can see why you love the stars so much.
SPACE
R

That's Phoenix, my favorite constellation.
I love what a phoenix represents—the idea of rising up from our own ashes and the things that should've destroyed us.
I know what you mean. When my parents died, I was totally alone until my dad adopted me.
He gave me a purpose greater than myself and it changed me.
What kind of purpose?
Protecting people.


Who protects you?
I can look out for myself.
Everybody needs someone to protect them.
I'm more concerned about finding a way to protect the rest of you from H.I.V.E. I wasn't on their list.
Don't put that on yourself. You can't control everything.
I can try.


Damian is my younger brother. It's my job to look out for him.
And Max, Raven, and Gar just finished high school, too.
Well, I didn't—I'm in college. And even though my sister is older than me, I still have to protect her because Tate and Lynch are manipulating her.
I can't let you risk—
You're not letting me do anything.
This situation affects me and Kira, too, so I need to find a way to stop H.I.V.E. just as much as you.
You're right. Has anyone ever told you you're stubborn?
No. But I'll take it as a compliment.


We thought we lost you two.
We needed a change of scenery to think.
We need a plan.
We're going to take down H.I.V.E., Lynch, and Slade.

Together!

kami garcia

is the #1 *New York Times, USA Today*, and international bestselling co-author of the Beautiful Creatures and Dangerous Creatures novels. *Beautiful Creatures* has been published in 50 countries and translated into 39 languages. Kami's solo series, The Legion, includes *Unbreakable*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, and its sequel, *Unmarked*, both of which were nominated for Bram Stoker Awards. Her other works include *The X-Files Origins: Agent of Chaos* and the YA contemporary novels *The Lovely Reckless* and *Broken Beautiful Hearts*. Kami was a teacher for 17 years before co-authoring her first novel on a dare from seven of her students. She is a cofounder of YALLFest, the biggest teen book festival in the country.
She lives in Maryland with her family.

gabriel picolo

is a Brazilian comics artist and illustrator based in São Paolo. His work has become known for its strong storytelling and atmospheric colors. Picolo has developed projects for clients such as Blizzard, Boom! Studios, HarperCollins, and DeviantArt. His first graphic novel, *Teen Titans: Raven*, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

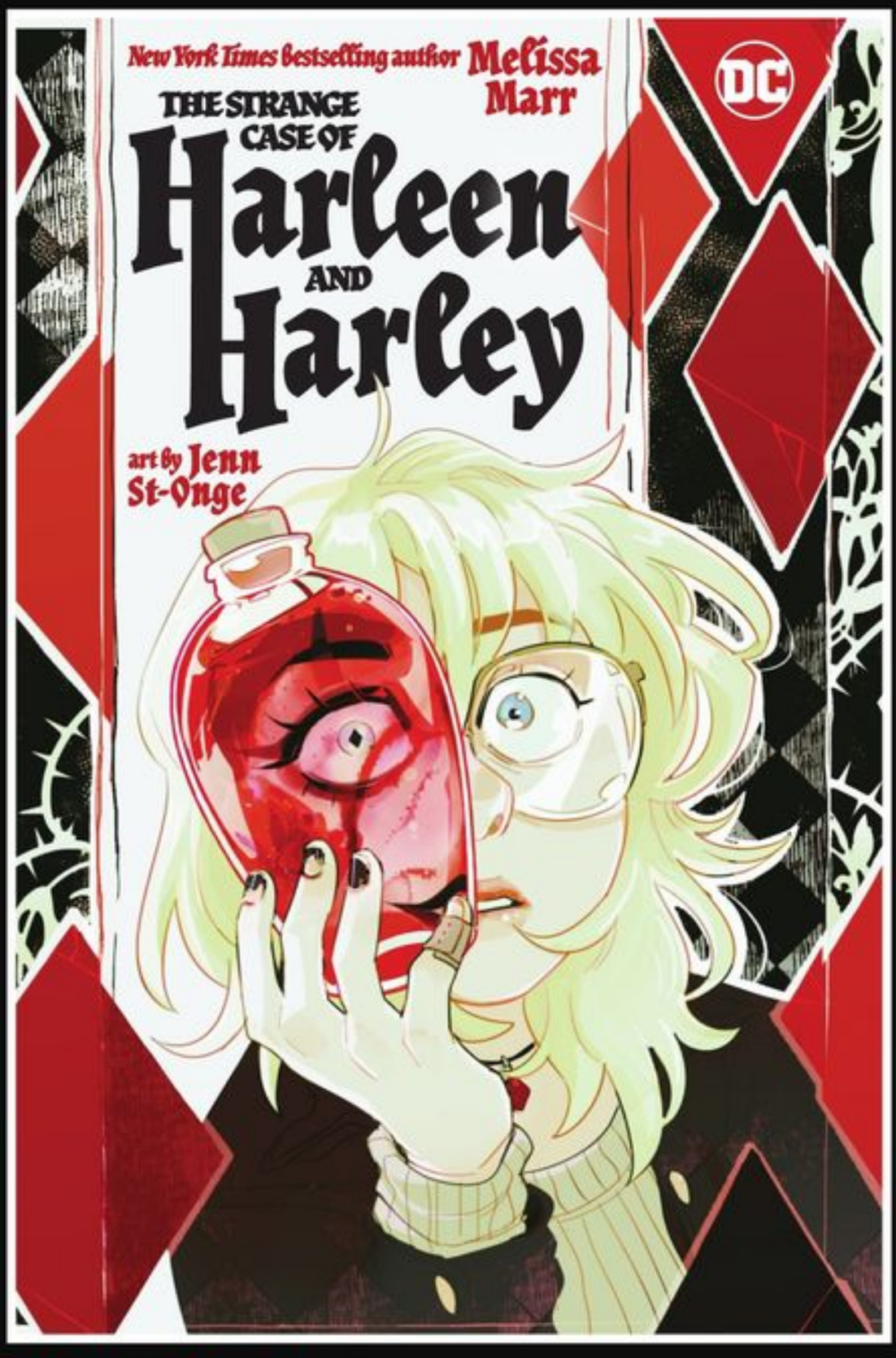
The moment
we've all been waiting for...

The Titans unite in fall 2025!

KAMI GARCIA
GABRIEL PICOLO

THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING SERIES

NOT FINAL COVER



Harleen Quinzel is many things: a gymnast, anxious, broke...but the last thing anyone would call her is evil. **Harley Quinn** on the other hand...

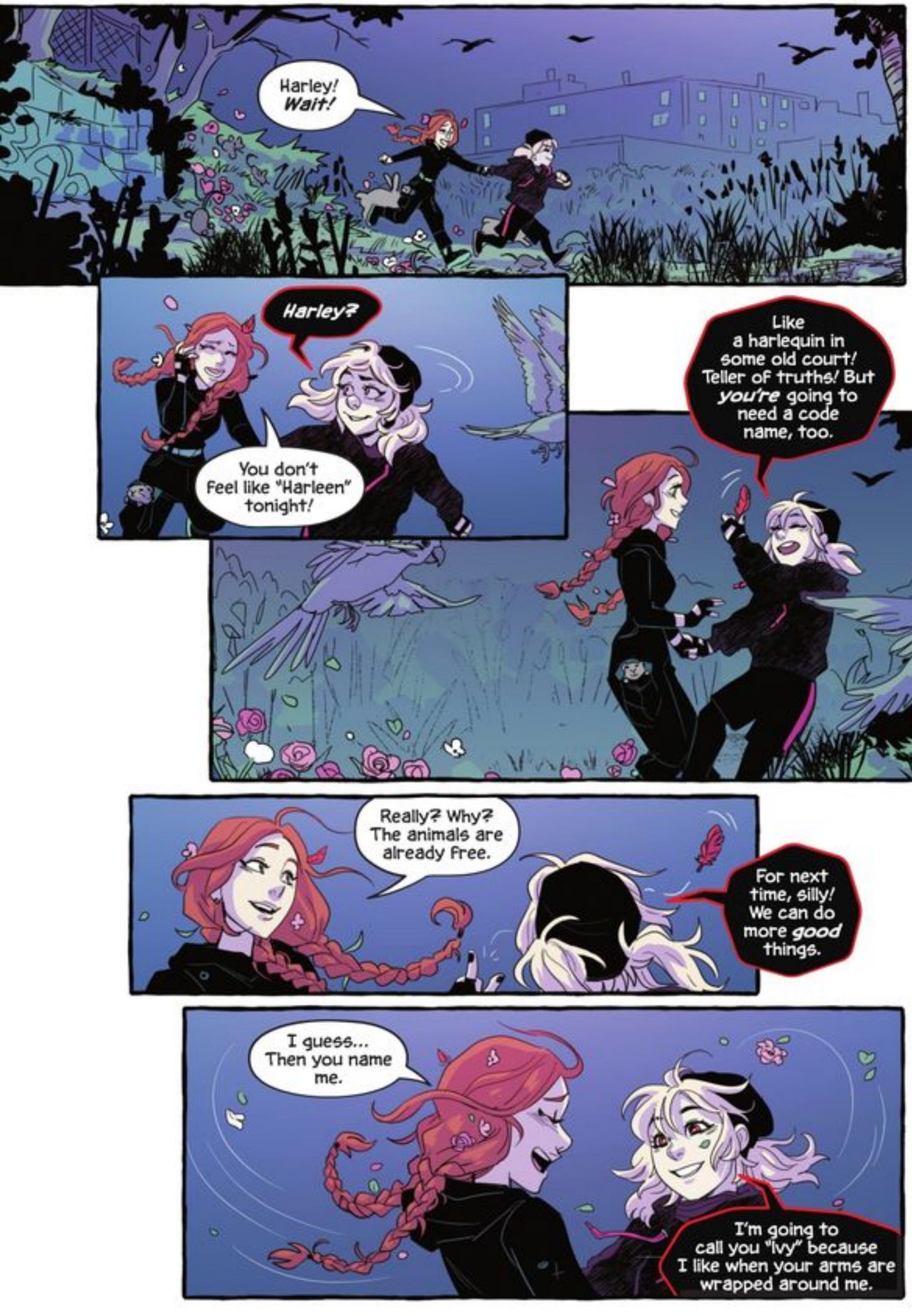
Melissa Marr, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wicked Lovely*, teams up with celebrated artist **Jenn St-Onge** to tell the story of a girl who will learn good and evil are not black and white (and red)... as long as she doesn't get caught.

In stores now!

IF you can hear me, Harleen, stay away so we don't get caught.
I mean it, Harleen. Stay away!
Stay away from what? Are you okay?
Pep talk, doll. I'm good.
3
You can tell me anything.
Breaking and entering. Kinda busy...

BE FREE!
Squeak!
Growl!
Chatter!
Squawk!

THUMP! BANG!
rattle rattle rattle
Over here!
Gotta go! Gotta go!
It's a long drop.
Come on! I've got you.


Harley! Wait!
Harley?
You don't feel like "Harleen" tonight!
Like a harlequin in some old court! Teller of truths! But you're going to need a code name, too.
Really? Why? The animals are already free.
For next time, silly! We can do more good things.
I guess... Then you name me.
I'm going to call you "Ivy" because I like when your arms are wrapped around me.

Harley and Ivy.
Very Wild West.
Are we planning on getting horses and robbing trains, then?
Maybe. I feel like we can do anything. Do you feel it?
I do.
THE MISCHIEF CONTINUES IN
THE STRANGE CASE OF HARLEEN AND HARLEY
OUT NOW!

"Kami Garcia and Gabriel Picolo are true superheroes giving Starfire her own fiery star turn with their signature combination of realism, heart, and adventure. Beautifully drawn and fully imagined, *Starfire* burns bright! Loved!"
—**Danielle Paige**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mera: Tidebreaker* and *Dorothy Must Die*

KAMI GARCIA (#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Beautiful Creatures*) and artist GABRIEL PICOLO, the creative duo behind the *New York Times* bestselling Teen Titans graphic novel series, are back with a first look at a new Titan!

Kori Anders's summer job at a ritzy Santa Monica beach club is fun, but she *doesn't* care about keeping up with the current trends, and she's *not* interested in rushing around to all the parties. She'd rather explore her inexplicable draw to the stars.

Her older sister, Kira, on the other hand, is the most popular girl around. With the hottest clothes, an even hotter boyfriend (*the* Tate Fairweather), and a take-no-prisoners attitude, she's Kori's opposite in every way. Sadly, Kori doesn't think Tate is a good fit for her sister, but nothing she says will convince Kira to break up with him.

The summer heats up when Tate's uncle, Lynch Fairweather, CEO of a major pharmaceutical company, asks Kori and Kira to participate in a clinical trial designed to advance treatments for Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. During treatment, Kori begins to discover strange powers she's never had before...and she might not be the only one.

Can Kori persuade her sister to trust her before it's too late? And when a carload of teens with their own powers come looking for Kori to warn her about a creepy stalker, she'll learn that trust is a two-way street!

"A fun, action-packed story of sisterhood, friendship, and staying true to yourself. Kori is the spoonie [chronically ill] Teen Titan I never knew I needed!" —**Lillie Lainoff**, author of *One for All*

"For the last few years, Kami Garcia and Gabriel Picolo have been building a very special space in the DC Universe. These graphic novels are exceptional statements of hope, power, and responsibility."
—**Brian Michael Bendis**, writer of *Phenomena* and co-creator of Miles Morales

GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS